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(54) SOLUBLE CR1 DERIVATIVES

LÔSLICHE DERIVATE DES COMPLEMENT TYPE-REZEPTORS (CR1)

DERIVES SOLUBLES DE CR1 (RECEPTEUR DU COMPLEMENT DE TYPE 1)

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chimeric complement inhibitor'

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to polypeptides and their use in the diagnosis and therapy of disorders involving complement activity and various inflammatory and immune disorders.

[0002] Constituting about 10% of the globulins in normal serum, the complement system is composed of many different proteins that are important in the immune system's response to foreign antigens. The complement system becomes activated when its primary components are cleaved and the products alone or with other proteins, activate additional complement proteins resulting in a proteolytic cascade. Activation of the complement system leads to a variety of responses including increased vascular permeability, chemotaxis of phagocytic cells, activation of inflammatory cells, opsonization of foreign particles, direct killing of cells and tissue damage. Activation of the complement system may be triggered by antigen-antibody complexes (the classical pathway) or, for example, by lipopolysaccharides present in cell walls of pathogenic bacteria (the alternative pathway).

[0003] Complement receptor type 1 (CR1) has been shown to be present on the membranes of erythrocytes, monocytes/macrophages, granulocytes, B cells, some T cells, splenic follicular dendritic cells, and glomerular podocytes. CR1 binds to the complement components C3b and C4b and has also been referred to as the C3b/C4b receptor. The structural organisation and primary sequence of one allotype of CR1 is known (Klickstein *et al.*, 1987, J. Exp. Med. 165:1095-1112; Klickstein *et al.*, 1988, J. Exp. Med. 168:1699-1717; Hourcade *et al.*, 1988, J. Exp. Med. 168:1255-1270, WO 89/09220, WO 91/05047). It is composed of 30 short consensus repeats (SCRs) that each contain around 60-70 amino acids. In each SCR, around 29 of the average 65 amino acids are conserved. Each SCR has been proposed to form a three dimensional triple loop structure through disulphide linkages with the third and first and the fourth and second half-cystines in disulphide bonds. CR1 is further arranged as 4 long homologous repeats (LHRs) of 7 SCRs each. Following a leader sequence, the CR1 molecule consists of the N-terminal LHR-A, the next two repeats, LHR-B and LHR-C, and the most C-terminal LHR-D followed by 2 additional SCRs, a 25 residue putative transmembrane region and a 43 residue cytoplasmic tail.

[0004] Based on the mature CR1 molecule having a predicted N-terminal glutamine residue, hereinafter designated as residue 1, the first four SCR domains of LHR-A are defined herein as consisting of residues 2-58, 63-120, 125-191 and 197-252, respectively, of mature CR1.

[0005] Hourcade *et al.*, 1988, J. Exp. Med. 168:1255-1270 observed an alternative polyadenylation site in the human CR1 transcriptional unit that was predicted to produce a secreted form of CR1. The mRNA encoded by this truncated sequence comprises the first 8.5 SCRs of CR1, and encodes a protein of about 80 kDa which was proposed to include the C4b binding domain. When a cDNA corresponding to this truncated sequence was transfected into COS cells and expressed, it demonstrated the expected C4b binding activity but did not bind to C3b (Krych *et al.*, 1989, FASEB J. 3:A368; Krych *et al.* Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 1991, 88, 4353-7). Krych *et al.*, also observed a mRNA similar to the predicted one in several human cell lines and postulated that such a truncated soluble form of CR1 with C4b binding activity may be synthesised in humans.

[0006] In addition, Makrides *et al.* (1992, J. Biol. Chem. 267 (34) 24754-61) have expressed SCR 1 + 2 and 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 of LHR-A as membrane-attached proteins in CHO cells.

[0007] Several soluble fragments of CR1 have also been generated via recombinant DNA procedures by eliminating the transmembrane region from the DNAs being expressed (WO 89/09220, WO 91/05047). The soluble CR1 fragments were functionally active, bound C3b and/or C4b and demonstrated Factor I cofactor activity depending upon the regions they contained. Such constructs inhibited *in vitro* complement-related functions such as neutrophil oxidative burst, complement mediated hemolysis, and C3a and C5a production. A particular soluble construct, sCR1/pBSCR1c, also demonstrated *in vivo* activity in a reversed passive Arthus reaction (WO 89/09220, WO 91/05047; Yeh *et al.*, 1991, J. Immunol. 146:250), suppressed post-ischemic myocardial inflammation and necrosis (WO 89/09220, WO 91/05047; Weisman *et al.*, Science, 1990, 249:146-1511; Dupe, R. *et al.* Thrombosis & Haemostasis (1991) 65(6) 695.) and extended survival rates following transplantation (Pruitt & Bollinger, 1991, J. Surg. Res 50:350; Pruitt *et al.*, 1991 Transplantation 52: 868). Furthermore, co-formulation of sCR1/pBSCR1c with p-anisoylated human plasminogen-streptokinase-activator complex (APSAC) resulted in similar anti-haemolytic activity as sCR1 alone, indicating that the combination of the complement inhibitor sCR1 with a thrombolytic agent was feasible (WO 91/05047).

[0008] Soluble polypeptides corresponding to part of CR1 have now been found to possess functional complement inhibitory, including anti-haemolytic, activity.

[0009] According to the present invention there is provided a soluble polypeptide comprising, in sequence, one to four short consensus repeats (SCR) selected from SCR 1, 2, 3 and 4 of long homologous repeat A (LHR-A) as the only structurally and functionally intact SCR domains of CR1 and including at least SCR3, wherein SCR 1, 2, 3 and 4 consist, respectively, of residues 2-58, 63-120, 125-191 and 197-252 of mature CR1.

[0010] In preferred aspects, the above defined polypeptide comprises, in sequence, SCR 1, 2, 3 and 4 of LHR-A or SCR 1, 2 and 3 of LHR-A as the only structurally and functionally intact SCR domains of CR1.

[0011] It is to be understood that variations in the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of the invention by way of

addition, deletion or conservative substitution of residues, including allelic variations, in which the biological activity of the polypeptide is retained, are encompassed by the invention. Conservative substitution is understood to mean the retention of the charge and size characteristics of the amino acid side chain, for example arginine replaced by histidine.

[0012] In one aspect, the polypeptide of the invention may be represented symbolically as follows:



in which SCR1 represents residues 2-58 of mature CR1, SCR2 represents residues 63-120 of mature CR1, SCR3 represents residues 125-191 of mature CR1, and V^1 , W^1 , X^1 and Y^1 represent bonds or short linking sequences of amino acids, preferably 1 to 5 residues in length and which are preferably derived from native interdomain sequences in CR1.

[0013] In a preferred embodiment of formula (I), W^1 , X^1 and Y^1 represent residues 59-62, 121-124 and 192-196, respectively, of mature CR1 and V^1 represents residue 1 of mature CR1 optionally linked via its N-terminus to methionine.

[0014] In another aspect the polypeptide of the invention may be represented symbolically as follows:



in which SCR1, SCR2 and SCR3 are as hereinbefore defined, SCR4 represents residues 197-252 of mature CR1 and V^2 , W^2 , X^2 , Y^2 and Z^2 represents bonds or short linking sequences of amino acids, preferably 1 to 5 residues in length and which are preferably derived from native interdomain sequences in CR1.

[0015] In preferred embodiments of formula (II), W^2 , X^2 , Y^2 and Z^2 represent residues 59-62, 121-124, 192-196, and residues 253 respectively, of mature CR1 and V^2 represents residue 1 of mature CR1 optionally linked via its N-terminus to methionine.

[0016] In one particular embodiment of formula (II) arginine 235 is replaced by histidine.

[0017] In the preferred embodiment of formula (II), residue 235 is arginine.

[0018] In one further aspect, the polypeptide of the invention may be represented symbolically as follows:



in which SCR3 is as hereinbefore defined and X^3 and Y^3 represent bonds or short linking sequences of amino acids, preferably 1 to 5 residues in length and which are preferably derived from native interdomain sequences in CR1.

[0019] In a preferred embodiment of formula (III) X^3 represents amino acids 122-124 of mature CR1 optionally linked to methionine at its N-terminus and Y^3 represents amino acids 192-196 of mature CR1.

[0020] In another further aspect, the polypeptide of the invention may be represented symbolically as follows:



in which SCR3 and SCR4 are as hereinbefore defined and X^4 , Y^4 and Z^4 represent bonds or short linking sequences of amino acids, preferably 1 to 5 residues in length and which are preferably derived from native interdomain sequences in CR1.

[0021] In a preferred embodiment of formula (IV) X^4 represents amino acids 122-124 of mature CR1 optionally linked to methionine at its N-terminus and Y^4 and Z^4 represent amino acids 192-196 and 253 respectively of mature CR1.

[0022] In a further aspect, the invention provides a process for preparing a CR1 polypeptide according to the invention which process comprises expressing DNA encoding said polypeptide in a recombinant host cell and recovering the product.

[0023] In particular, the process may comprise the steps of:

- i) preparing a replicable expression vector capable, in a host cell, of expressing a DNA polymer comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes said polypeptide;
- ii) transforming a host cell with said vector,
- iii) culturing said transformed host cell under conditions permitting expression of said DNA polymer to produce said polypeptide; and
- iv) recovering said polypeptide.

[0024] The DNA polymer encoding the polypeptide also forms part of the invention.

[0025] The process of the invention may be performed by conventional recombinant techniques such as described in Sambrook *et al.*, Molecular Cloning : A laboratory manual 2nd Edition. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1989) and DNA Cloning vols I, II and III (D. M. Glover ed., IRL Press Ltd).

[0026] The invention also provides a process for preparing the DNA polymer by the condensation of appropriate mono-, di- or oligomeric nucleotide units.

[0027] The preparation may be carried out chemically, enzymatically, or by a combination of the two methods, *in vitro* or *in vivo* as appropriate. Thus, the DNA polymer may be prepared by the enzymatic ligation of appropriate DNA fragments, by conventional methods such as those described by D. M. Roberts *et al.*, in *Biochemistry* 1985, 24, 5090-5098.

[0028] The DNA fragments may be obtained by digestion of DNA containing the required sequences of nucleotides with appropriate restriction enzymes, by chemical synthesis, by enzymatic polymerisation, or by a combination of these methods.

[0029] Digestion with restriction enzymes may be performed in an appropriate buffer at a temperature of 20°-70°C, generally in a volume of 50µl or less with 0.1-10µg DNA.

[0030] Enzymatic polymerisation of DNA may be carried out *in vitro* using a DNA polymerase such as DNA polymerase 1 (Klenow fragment) in an appropriate buffer containing the nucleoside triphosphates dATP, dCTP, dGTP and dTTP as required at a temperature of 10°-37°C, generally in a volume of 50µl or less.

[0031] Enzymatic ligation of DNA fragments may be carried out using a DNA ligase such as T4 DNA ligase in an appropriate buffer at a temperature of 4°C to 37°C, generally in a volume of 50µl or less.

[0032] The chemical synthesis of the DNA polymer or fragments may be carried out by conventional phosphotriester, phosphite or phosphoramidite chemistry, using solid phase techniques such as those described in 'Chemical and Enzymatic Synthesis of Gene Fragments - A Laboratory Manual' (ed. H.G. Gassen and A. Lang), Verlag Chemie, Weinheim (1982), or in other scientific publications, for example M.J. Gait, H.W.D. Matthes M. Singh, B.S. Sproat and R.C. Titmas, *Nucleic Acids Research*, 1982, 10, 6243; B.S. Sproat and W. Bannwarth, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 1983, 24, 5771; M.D. Matteucci and M.H. Caruthers, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 1980, 21, 719; M.D. Matteucci and M.H. Caruthers, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 1981, 103, 3185; S.P. Adams *et al.*, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 1983, 105, 661; N.D. Sinha, J. Biernat, J. McMannus and H. Koester, *Nucleic Acids Research*, 1984, 12, 4539; and H.W.D. Matthes *et al.*, *EMBO Journal*, 1984, 3, 801. Preferably an automated DNA synthesiser (for example, Applied Biosystems 381A Synthesiser) is employed.

[0033] The DNA polymer is preferably prepared by ligating two or more DNA molecules which together comprise a DNA sequence encoding the polypeptide.

[0034] The DNA molecules may be obtained by the digestion with suitable restriction enzymes of vectors carrying the required coding sequences.

[0035] The precise structure of the DNA molecules and the way in which they are obtained depends upon the structure of the desired product. The design of a suitable strategy for the construction of the DNA molecule coding for the polypeptide is a routine matter for the skilled worker in the art.

[0036] In particular, consideration may be given to the codon usage of the particular host cell. The codons may be optimised for high level expression in *E. coli* using the principles set out in Devereux *et al.*, (1984) *Nucl. Acid Res.*, 12, 387.

[0037] The expression of the DNA polymer encoding the polypeptide in a recombinant host cell may be carried out by means of a replicable expression vector capable, in the host cell, of expressing the DNA polymer. The expression vector is novel and also forms part of the invention.

[0038] The replicable expression vector may be prepared in accordance with the invention, by cleaving a vector compatible with the host cell to provide a linear DNA segment having an intact replicon, and combining said linear segment with one or more DNA molecules which, together with said linear segment, encode the polypeptide, under ligating conditions.

[0039] The ligation of the linear segment and more than one DNA molecule may be carried out simultaneously or sequentially as desired.

[0040] Thus, the DNA polymer may be preformed or formed during the construction of the vector, as desired. The choice of vector will be determined in part by the host cell, which may be prokaryotic, such as *E. coli*, or eukaryotic, such as mouse C127, mouse myeloma, chinese hamster ovary, fungi e.g. filamentous fungi or unicellular 'yeast' or an insect cell such as *Drosophila*. The host cell may also be in a transgenic animal. Suitable vectors include plasmids, bacteriophages, cosmids and recombinant viruses derived from, for example, baculoviruses or vaccinia.

[0041] The DNA polymer may be assembled into vectors designed for isolation of stable transformed mammalian cell lines expressing the fragment e.g. bovine papillomavirus vectors in mouse C127 cells, or amplified vectors in chinese hamster ovary cells (DNA Cloning Vol. II D.M. Glover ed. IRL Press 1985; Kaufman, R.J. *et al.*, *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 5, 1750-1759, 1985; Pavlakis G.N. and Hamer, D.H. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA)* 80, 397-401, 1983; Goeddel, D.V. *et al.*, European Patent Application No. 0093619, 1983).

[0042] The preparation of the replicable expression vector may be carried out conventionally with appropriate enzymes for restriction, polymerisation and ligation of the DNA, by procedures described in, for example, Sambrook *et al.*, cited above. Polymerisation and ligation may be performed as described above for the preparation of the DNA polymer. Digestion with restriction enzymes may be performed in an appropriate buffer at a temperature of 20°-70°C, gen-

erally in a volume of 50µl or less with 0.1-10µg DNA.

[0043] The recombinant host cell is prepared, in accordance with the invention, by transforming a host cell with a replicable expression vector of the invention under transforming conditions. Suitable transforming conditions are conventional and are described in, for example, Sambrook *et al.*, cited above, or "DNA Cloning" Vol. II, D.M. Glover ed., IRL Press Ltd, 1985.

[0044] The choice of transforming conditions is determined by the host cell. Thus, a bacterial host such as *E. coli*, may be treated with a solution of CaCl₂ (Cohen *et al.*, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci., 1973, 69, 2110) or with a solution comprising a mixture of RbCl, MnCl₂, potassium acetate and glycerol, and then with 3-[N-morpholino]-propane-sulphonic acid, RbCl and glycerol or by electroporation as for example described by Bio-Rad Laboratories, Richmond, California, USA, manufacturers of an electroporator. Mammalian cells in culture may be transformed by calcium co-precipitation of the vector DNA onto the cells or by using cationic liposomes.

[0045] The invention also extends to a host cell transformed with a replicable expression vector of the invention.

[0046] Culturing the transformed host cell under conditions permitting expression of the DNA polymer is carried out conventionally, as described in, for example, Sambrook *et al.*, and "DNA Cloning" cited above. Thus, preferably the cell is supplied with nutrient and cultured at a temperature below 45°C.

[0047] The protein product is recovered by conventional methods according to the host cell. Thus, where the host cell is bacterial such as *E. coli* and the protein is expressed intracellularly, it may be lysed physically, chemically or enzymatically and the protein product isolated from the resulting lysate. Where the host cell is mammalian, the product is usually isolated from the nutrient medium.

[0048] Where the host cell is bacterial, such as *E. coli*, the product obtained from the culture may require folding for optimum functional activity. This is most likely if the protein is expressed as inclusion bodies. There are a number of aspects of the isolation and folding process that are regarded as important. In particular, the polypeptide is preferably partially purified before folding, in order to minimise formation of aggregates with contaminating proteins and minimise misfolding of the polypeptide. Thus, the removal of contaminating *E. coli* proteins by specifically isolating the inclusion bodies and the subsequent additional purification prior to folding are important aspects of the procedure.

[0049] The folding process is carried out in such a way as to minimise aggregation of intermediate-folded states of the polypeptide. Thus, careful consideration needs to be given to, among others, the salt type and concentration, temperature, protein concentration, redox buffer concentrations and duration of folding. The exact condition for any given polypeptide generally cannot be predicted and must be determined by experiment.

[0050] There are numerous methods available for the folding of proteins from inclusion bodies and these are known to the skilled worker in this field. The methods generally involve breaking all the disulphide bonds in the inclusion body, for example with 50mM 2-mercaptoethanol, in the presence of a high concentration of denaturant such as 8M urea or 6M guanidine hydrochloride. The next step is to remove these agents to allow folding of the proteins to occur. Formation of the disulphide bridges requires an oxidising environment and this may be provided in a number of ways, for example by air, or by incorporating a suitable redox system, for example a mixture of reduced and oxidised glutathione.

[0051] Preferably, the inclusion body is solubilised using 8M urea, in the presence of mercaptoethanol, and protein is folded, after initial removal of contaminating proteins, by addition of cold buffer. A preferred buffer is 20mM ethanolamine containing 1mM reduced glutathione and 0.5mM oxidised glutathione. The folding is preferably carried out at a temperature in the range 1 to 5°C over a period of 1 to 4 days.

[0052] If any precipitation or aggregation is observed, the aggregated protein can be removed in a number of ways, for example by centrifugation or by treatment with precipitants such as ammonium sulphate. Where either of these procedures are adopted, monomeric polypeptide is the major soluble product.

[0053] If the bacterial cell secretes the protein, folding is not usually necessary.

[0054] The polypeptide of this invention is useful in the treatment or diagnosis of many complement-mediated or complement-related diseases and disorders including, but not limited to, those listed below.

Disease and Disorders Involving Complement Neurological Disorders

[0055]

multiple sclerosis
stroke
Guillain Barré Syndrome
traumatic brain injury
Parkinson's disease
allergic encephalitis
Alzheimer's disease

Disorders of Inappropriate or Undesirable Complement Activation

[0056]

- 5 haemodialysis complications
- hyperacute allograft rejection
- xenograft rejection
- corneal graft rejection
- interleukin-2 induced toxicity during IL-2 therapy
- 10 paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria

Inflammatory Disorders

[0057]

- 15 inflammation of autoimmune diseases
- Crohn's Disease
- adult respiratory distress syndrome
- thermal injury including burns or frostbite
- 20 uveitis
- psoriasis
- asthma
- acute pancreatitis

25 Post-Ischemic Reperfusion Conditions

[0058]

- myocardial infarction
- 30 balloon angioplasty
- atherosclerosis (cholesterol-induced) & restenosis
- hypertension
- post-pump syndrome in cardiopulmonary bypass or renal haemodialysis
- renal ischemia
- 35 intestinal ischaemia

Infectious Diseases or Sepsis

[0059]

- 40 multiple organ failure
- septic shock

Immune Complex Disorders and Autoimmune Diseases

45

[0060]

- rheumatoid arthritis
- systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)
- 50 SLE nephritis
- proliferative nephritis
- glomerulonephritis
- haemolytic anemia
- myasthenia gravis
- 55

Reproductive Disorders

[0061]

5 antibody- or complement-mediated infertility

Wound Healing

10 [0062] The present invention is also directed to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide, as above, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

[0063] The present invention also provides a method of treating a disease or disorder associated with inflammation or inappropriate complement activation comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide of this invention.

[0064] In the above methods, the subject is preferably a human.

15 [0065] An effective amount of the polypeptide for the treatment of a disease or disorder is in the dose range of 0.01-100mg/kg; preferably 0.1mg-10mg/kg.

[0066] For administration, the polypeptide should be formulated into an appropriate pharmaceutical or therapeutic composition. Such a composition typically contains a therapeutically active amount of the polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier such as saline, buffered saline, dextrose, or water. Compositions may also
20 comprise specific stabilising agents such as sugars, including mannose and mannitol, and local anaesthetics for injectable compositions, including, for example, lidocaine.

[0067] Further provided is the use of a polypeptide of this invention in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder associated with inflammation or inappropriate complement activation.

[0068] In order to inhibit complement activation and, at the same time, provide thrombolytic therapy, the present invention provides compositions which further comprise a therapeutically active amount of a thrombolytic agent. An effective amount of a thrombolytic agent is in the dose range of 0.01-10mg/kg; preferably 0.1-5mg/kg. Preferred thrombolytic agents include, but are not limited to, streptokinase, human tissue type plasminogen activator and urokinase molecules and derivatives, fragments or conjugates thereof. The thrombolytic agents may comprise one or more chains that may be fused or reversibly linked to other agents to form hybrid molecules (EP-A-0297882 and EP 155387), such as, for
30 example, urokinase linked to plasmin (EP-A-0152736), a fibrinolytic enzyme linked to a water-soluble polymer (EP-A-0183503). The thrombolytic agents may also comprise muteins of plasminogen activators (EP-A-0207589). In a preferred embodiment, the thrombolytic agent may comprise a reversibly blocked *in vitro* fibrinolytic enzyme as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,285,932. A most preferred enzyme is a p-anisoyl plasminogen-streptokinase activator complex as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,808,405, and marketed by SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals under the Trademark
35 EMINASE (generic name anistreplase, also referred to as APSAC; Monk *et al.*, 1987, Drugs 34:25-49).

[0069] Routes of administration for the individual or combined therapeutic compositions of the present invention include standard routes, such as, for example, intravenous infusion or bolus injection. Active complement inhibitors and thrombolytic agents may be administered together or sequentially, in any order.

[0070] The present invention also provides a method for treating a thrombotic condition, in particular acute myocardial infarction, in a human or non-human animal. This method comprises administering to a human or animal in need of this
40 treatment an effective amount of a polypeptide according to this invention and an effective amount of a thrombolytic agent.

[0071] Also provided is the use of a polypeptide of this invention and a thrombolytic agent in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a thrombotic condition in a human or animal. Such methods and uses may be carried
45 out as described in WO 91/05047.

[0072] This invention further provides a method for treating adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) in a human or non-human animal. This method comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of a polypeptide according to this invention.

[0073] The invention also provides a method of delaying hyperacute allograft or hyperacute xenograft rejection in a
50 human or non-human animal which receives a transplant by administering an effective amount of a polypeptide according to this invention. Such administration may be to the patient or by application to the transplant prior to implantation.

[0074] The invention yet further provides a method of treating wounds in a human or non-human animal by administering by either topical or parenteral e.g. intravenous routes, an effective amount of a polypeptide according to this invention.

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GENERAL METHODS USED IN EXAMPLES

[0075]

(i) DNA cleavage

Cleavage of DNA by restriction endonucleases was carried out according to the manufacturer's instructions using supplied buffers. Double digests were carried out simultaneously if the buffer conditions were suitable for both enzymes. Otherwise double digests were carried out sequentially where enzyme requiring the lowest salt concentration was added first to the digest. Once that digest was complete the salt concentration was altered and the second enzyme added.

(ii) Production of blunt ended DNA fragments

The recessed 3' termini of DNA fragments were filled in using the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I as described in Sambrook *et al* (1989).

(iii) DNA purification/ concentration and analysis

Removal of protein contaminants, nucleosides was with phenol/CHCl₃ followed by precipitation with ethanol. DNA was analysed on horizontal agarose gel electrophoresis: both methods are described in Sambrook *et al* (1989).

(iv) DNA fragment Isolation

1. DNA purification on DEAE NA45 membranes

DNA fragments were purified from agarose gels by making an incision in the agarose above and just below the required DNA fragment. NA45 membranes from Schleicher & Schuell (Anderman, Great Britain) that had been soaked in TE (10 mM Tris pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA) were inserted into the incisions and current reapplied to the gel until the DNA fragment was trapped on the lower membrane; higher molecular weight DNA was trapped on the upper membrane. The lower membrane was removed from the gel and the DNA eluted into 0.05 M arginine/1 M NaCl at 70°C for 2 hours. The DNA was then concentrated by ethanol precipitation as described in Sambrook *et al* (1989).

2. Electroelution

DNA fragments were excised from agarose gels and DNA extracted by electroelution using the Unidirectional Electroeluter (IBI Ltd., Cambridge, England) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

3. Gel purification

DNA fragments were excised from agarose gels and DNA extracted using the QIAEX gel extraction kit according to the manufacturers instructions (QIAGEN Inc., USA).

(v) Plasmid preparation

Large scale plasmid preparation of plasmid DNA was carried out using CsCl as described in Sambrook *et al* (1989) or using Magic Maxipreps (Promega Corporation, Madison, USA) according to the manufacturers instructions. Mini-plasmid preparations were carried out using either the alkaline lysis method described in Sambrook *et al* (1989) or Magic Minipreps (Promega Corporation, Madison, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

(vi) Introduction of plasmid DNA into *E. coli*

1. Plasmids were transformed into *E. coli* HB101 or *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) (Studier and Moffat, 1986) that had been made competent using calcium chloride as described in Sambrook *et al* (1989).

2. Alternatively plasmids were introduced into *E. coli* DH1 (Low, 1968) or *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) by electroporation using the Gene Pulsar and Pulse Controller of Bio-Rad (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Richmond, California, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

(vii) Kinasing of oligonucleotides

Oligonucleotides or annealed oligonucleotides possessing 5' overhangs were kinased using T₄ polynucleotide kinase as described in Sambrook *et al* (1989).

(viii) Annealing and ligation of oligonucleotides

Oligonucleotides were annealed together by mixing generally equimolar concentrations of the complementary oligonucleotides in 10 mM Tris pH 8.5, 5 mM MgCl₂ and placing at 100°C for 5 minutes and then cooling very slowly to room temperature. Annealed oligonucleotides with sticky ends were ligated to vector or other oligonucleotides containing complementary sticky ends using T₄ DNA ligase as described in Sambrook *et al* (1989).

(ix) PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) amplification of DNA

DNA fragments from ligation reactions or DNA fragments excised and purified from agarose gels were amplified by PCR from two primers complementary to the 5' ends of the DNA fragment. Approximately 0.1 - 1 µg of ligation

tion reaction or the purified DNA from the agarose gel was mixed in 10 mM Tris pH 8.3 (at 25°C), 50 mM KCl, 0.1% gelatin; MgCl₂ concentrations were varied from 1.5 mM to 6 mM to find a suitable concentration for each reaction. Both primers were added to a final concentration of 2 µM; each dNTP was added to a final concentration of 0.2 mM. The final reaction volume was either 75 µl or 100 µl, which was overlaid with mineral oil to prevent evaporation. Thermal cycling was then started on a thermal cycler eg. Hybaid Thermal reactor, and a typical example of conditions used was 94°C 7 mins, 45°C 2 mins, hold at 45°C for less than 5 min., and then add 5 units of Taq DNA polymerase (purchased from a commercial source, e.g. Gibco). The DNA fragment was amplified by cycling the temperature at 72°C 2 mins, 94°C 1 min and 45°C 2 min a total of 35 times.

(x) DNA sequencing using the double stranded method

Sequencing was carried out using "Sequenase™" (United States Biochemical Corporation) essentially as described in the manufacturer's instructions.

(xi) DNA sequence analysis and manipulation

Analysis of sequences were carried out on a digital VAX computer using the GCG package of programmes as described in Devereux *et al* (1984).

(xii) Production of oligonucleotides

1. Oligonucleotides were synthesised using a Gene Assembler Plus (Pharmacia LKB Biotechnology, Milton Keynes, England) or a 381A Synthesiser (Applied BioSystems) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

2. Oligonucleotide purification was carried out either using MonoQ as recommended by Pharmacia or by UV shadowing where recovery of synthetic oligonucleotides was by electrophoresis through a denaturing polyacrylamide gel. The oligonucleotides were loaded onto a 12% acrylamide/7M urea gel and run at 1500V until the oligonucleotide had migrated approximately two thirds of the length of the gel. The DNA was visualised using a hand-held, long-wavelength ultraviolet lamp; and the DNA bands excised. The oligonucleotide was recovered using Sep-Pak C18 reverse phase columns (Waters) as described in Sambrook *et al* (1989).

(xiii) Sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS PAGE)

SDS PAGE was carried out generally using the Novex system (British Biotechnology) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Prepacked gels of acrylamide concentrations 14%, 16%, 4 - 20% or 10 - 27% were the ones most frequently used. Samples for electrophoresis, including protein molecular weight standards (LMW Kit, Pharmacia) were usually diluted in 1% (w/v) SDS - containing buffer (with or without 5% (v/v) 2-mercaptoethanol), and left at room temperature for about 0.5 to 1 h before application to the gel.

(xiv) Alteration of codon usage

The non random use of synonymous codons has been demonstrated in *E. coli* and there is some evidence to support the belief that protein production from genes containing non-optimal or minor codons (particularly at the 5' end of the gene) is less efficient than that from genes with no such codons (e.g. Chen and Inouye, 1990). A codon usage table compiled from genes highly expressed in *E. coli* (supplied as part of the GCG sequence analysis software package, Devereux *et al.* (1984)) was used to determine the optimal codons for expression in *E. coli*. All of the first 30 codons of all constructs (where compatible with restriction enzyme sites) were optimised for high level expression. The codons for the seven amino acids: arg, gly, ile, leu, pro, ser, ala were optimised (where compatible with restriction enzyme sites) throughout the coding sequence.

(xv) Construction of vector pBROC413

The plasmid pT7-7 (Tabor, 1990) contains DNA corresponding to nucleotides 2065-4362 of pBR322 and like pBR322 can be mobilized by a conjugative plasmid in the presence of a third plasmid ColK. A mobility protein encoded by ColK acts on the *nic* site at nucleotide 2254 of pBR322 initiating mobilization from this point. pT7-7 was digested with *LspI* and *BglII* and the protruding 5' ends filled in with the Klenow fragment of DNA Polymerase I. The plasmid DNA fragment was purified by agarose gel electrophoresis, the blunt ends ligated together and transformed into *E. coli* DH1 by electroporation. The resultant plasmid pBROC413 (Fig.1) was identified by restriction enzyme analysis of plasmid DNA.

The deletion in pBROC413 from the *LspI* site immediately upstream of the $\phi 10$ promoter to the *BglII* site at nucleotide 434 of pT7-7 deletes the DNA corresponding to nucleotides 2065-2297 of pBR322. The *nic* site and adjacent sequences are therefore deleted making pBROC413 non mobilizable.

(xvi) Haemolytic assay

The anti-haemolytic activity of polypeptides was assessed by measuring the inhibition of complement mediated lysis of sheep erythrocytes sensitised with rabbit antibodies (obtained from Diamedix Corporation, Miami, USA). Human serum diluted 1:125 in 0.1 M HEPES/ 0.15 M NaCl pH 7.4 buffer was the source of complement and was prepared from a pool of volunteers essentially as described in (Dacie & Lewis, 1975). Briefly, blood was warmed to 37°C for 5 minutes, the clot removed and the remaining serum clarified by centrifugation. The serum fraction was split into small aliquots and stored at -196°C. Aliquots were thawed as required and diluted in the

Hepes buffer immediately before use.

Inhibition of complement-mediated lysis of sensitised sheep erythrocytes was measured using a standard haemolytic assay using a v-bottom microtitre plate format as follows.

50 μ l of a range of concentrations (0.01-100 μ g/ml but typically 0.05 - 25 μ g/ml) of test protein diluted in Hepes buffer were incubated with 50 μ l of the diluted serum for 15 minutes at 37°C. 100 μ l of prewarmed sensitised sheep erythrocytes were added for 1 hour at 37°C in a final reaction volume of 200 μ l. Samples were spun at 300g at 4°C for 15 minutes before transferring 150 μ l of supernatant to flat bottomed microtitre plates and determining the absorption at 410 nm, which reflects the amount of lysis in each test solution. Maximum lysis was determined by incubating serum with erythrocytes in the absence of any inhibitor from which the proportion of background lysis had been subtracted (determined by incubating erythrocytes with buffer). The background lysis by inhibitor was assessed by incubating inhibitor with erythrocytes and then subtracting that from test samples. Inhibition was expressed as a fraction of the total cell lysis such that IH50 represents the concentration of inhibitor required to give 50% inhibition of lysis.

(xvii) C3a RIA Assay

Activation of complement pathways can be followed by measuring the release of the anaphylatoxin, C3a and its breakdown product C3a des Arg. Both products can be measured using a competitive radio-immuno assay purchased from Amersham International plc, U. K., (human complement C3a des Arg [¹²⁵I] assay, code RPA 518).

(a) Alternative pathway activation by Zymosan A

The alternative pathway of complement was activated with zymosan A, a complex carbohydrate from yeast (Sigma, catalogue number Z-4250). Zymosan A was made 50 mg/ml in Hepes buffer (0.1M Hepes/0.15M NaCl pH 7.4) or in PBS (50 mM sodium phosphate/0.1 M NaCl pH 7.4) and vortexed until a fine suspension had formed. Serum (prepared as described for the haemolytic assay; Method xvi) was preincubated with different concentrations of complement inhibitor diluted in Hepes buffer for 15 mins at 37°C using the volumes given below. Zymosan A was then vortexed for a few seconds each time before addition to the samples after which samples were incubated for a further 30 mins at 37°C. The zymosan A was then spun down at approximately 11,000g for 30 seconds at ambient temperature. Typically 100 μ l of supernatant were added to an equal volume of precipitating solution provided in the kit and the subsequent supernatant assayed as described in the technical bulletin supplied by Amersham with the C3a des Arg assay RIA kit. Each sample was assayed in duplicate and useful dilutions of the supernatant, to ensure that sample counts were on the standard curve, were found to be 1/50 - 1/100. EDTA or Futhan were not used in any solutions or tubes as suggested in the technical bulletin.

Each sample was counted for 1 minute on an LKB-Wallac 1272 Clinigamma. Data was processed using the RiaCalc program for RIA assays as supplied with the Clinigamma. The data was computed essentially as described in the Amersham technical bulletin with the standard curve constructed by non-linear regression fit to the data.

The miniaturised assay was carried out essentially as described above but using smaller total volumes for the activation of serum.

Volumes of samples added

	serum	inhibitor	Zymosan A
Normal Assay	79 μ l	20 μ l	21 μ l
Miniaturised Assay	26.3 μ l	6.7 μ l	7 μ l

In the miniaturised assay, after activation, typically 25 μ l of the sample were precipitated. The assay kit reagent additions were reduced from 50 μ l to 10 μ l which enabled the assay to be carried out in a U-bottom microtitre plate containing separate detachable wells. The assay was then carried out as described in the technical bulletin using the adjusted volumes until the last dilution in isotonic saline. In this instance 200 μ l of saline were added and the plate spun at approximately 2500g for 12 mins at 4°C. The supernatants from each well were carefully removed by aspiration and the precipitate was washed with a further 300 μ l of isotonic saline. The plate was then spun again at about 2500g for 5 mins, 4°C and the supernatant was discarded. Wells were then counted for 10 mins each on the Clinigamma. The data was processed as above.

To determine the % inhibition of maximum activation at each inhibitor concentration, a number of controls were carried out with each experiment. These included maximum activation (A) i.e. serum + zymosan A only, background activation (B) i.e. serum + buffer only, and background activation in the presence of inhibitor (C) i.e. serum + inhibitor only. The background activation was generally subtracted from the maximum activation. Similarly the

background activation in the presence of inhibitor was subtracted from the value of activated serum in the presence of inhibitor. These values could then be used to determine the % inhibition at each inhibitor concentration, using the following formula:

$$1 - \frac{(D - C)}{(A - B)} \times 100$$

where D is the value of activation of serum in the presence of inhibitor and zymosan A. The IC₅₀ is defined as the concentration of inhibitor required to reduce maximum activation by 50%.

(b) Classical pathway activation by heat aggregated IgG

Activation of the classical pathway by IgG was performed as follows. Human γ -globulin (Sigma, catalogue number G-4386) was made 14 mg/ml in 0.1 M Hepes/0.15 M NaCl pH 7.4 and heated at 60°C for 1 hour. Samples of heat aggregated IgG were then stored as small aliquots at -80°C until required. Serum was activated using heat aggregated IgG using the same volumes as described for the zymosan A normal or miniaturised assay. Preincubation of inhibitor with serum was for 15 mins at 37°C followed by addition of the heat aggregated IgG. Incubation was continued for a further 45 mins at 37°C. The samples were then assayed directly for C3a levels using either the normal or miniaturised assay. (xviii) C5a RIA Assay

Activation of complement pathways can be followed by measuring the release of the anaphylatoxin C5a and its breakdown product C5a des Arg. Both products can be measured using a competitive radio-immuno assay purchased from Amersham International plc, U. K., (human complement C5a des Arg [¹²⁵I] assay, code RPA 520).

The alternative pathway of complement was activated with zymosan A, as described for the C3a RIA assay (Method (xvii)). The assay was carried out in the miniaturised form as described for the C3a assay using the reagents provided in the C5a des-Arg RIA kit.

References in the Examples to amino acid numbering relate to the corresponding residues of mature CR1 protein.

Example 1 Construction of plasmid pDB1010-D11 encoding SCR 1 + 2 General points

[0076] A DNA sequence for SCR 1 + 2 corresponding to amino acid 1 and ending at amino acid 124 of mature human complement receptor 1 was designed such that the 5' end of the gene contained an *Nde*I site. This site comprises an ATG codon to give the initiating methionine required for the start of mRNA translation and places the gene an optimum distance from the Shine-Dalgarno ribosome binding sequence of pBROC413. The 3' end of the gene finished on two stop codons followed by a *Hind*III site.

[0077] Restriction endonucleases that do not cut pBROC413 and that were commercially available were identified. The sequences of the restriction sites recognised by the endonucleases were translated into all three reading frames. The sites that contained rarely used codons for *E. coli* expression were discarded. The remaining sites were matched with the DNA coding for SCR 1 + 2. If the restriction site could be fitted into the DNA sequence so as to preserve the coding sequence and not add a rarely used codon, the DNA sequence was altered to include this restriction site. 10 unique restriction sites were so identified and incorporated. To enable intracellular expression of protein in *E. coli*, an ATG codon was added to the 5' end of the gene immediately preceding the codon for the first amino acid of mature CR-1. The codon ATG is part of the *Nde*I restriction site which can be used for cloning into vectors such as pBROC413. The codon corresponding to proline 124 of mature CR-1 has been changed to one encoding glutamine, which also encompasses an *Eco*RI site.

(a) Construction of plasmid

Oligonucleotides coding for SCR 1 + 2 (Table 1; 1 - 8) were synthesised as 4 complementary pairs of 87 - 101 mers that could be ligated in a unique fashion via complementary 8 bp overhangs between the pairs of oligonucleotides. The four complementary pairs of oligonucleotides were designated Pair A (oligos 1+2), Pair B (oligos 3+4), Pair C (oligos 5+6) and Pair D (oligos 7+8). Pair A which corresponded to the 5' end of the gene contained an *Nde*I restriction site overhang and Pair D contained a *Hind*III restriction site overhang at the 3' end. All oligonucleotides apart from 1 and 2 were purified on Pharmacia Mono Q columns prior to use. Oligonucleotide 2 of pair A and oligonucleotide 7 of pair D were kinased before annealing with their unkinased complementary oligonucleotides 1 and 8 respectively. Oligonucleotides pairs B and C were annealed first and then kinased. The kinased oligonucleotide pairs were ligated Pair A (approx. 0.1 μ g) to Pair B (approx. 0.2 μ g) and Pair C (approx. 2 μ g) to Pair D (approx. 4 μ g). The ligated oligonucleotides (A+B) were in turn ligated to (C+D) to form the gene coding for SCR 1 + 2.

The DNA coding for SCR 1 + 2 was amplified by PCR using two oligonucleotides (Table 1; 15 and 16) complementary to the two strands of DNA. Both oligonucleotides contained 5' unmatched ends that contained 6 bp of ran-

dom sequence followed by the sequence of either *Nde*I or *Hind*III restriction sites followed by 18 bp complementary to the gene. Following PCR, a band of approximately 400 bp was visualised on horizontal agarose gel electrophoresis, which was excised and purified on DEAE NA45 membranes. The DNA was then cut with *Nde*I and *Hind*III before ligating into pBROC413 that had been cut with the same enzymes. The vector was transformed into *E. coli* HB101 made competent with calcium chloride. Mini-plasmid preparations were made and the plasmid DNA was analysed by digestion with *Nde*I and *Hind*III. Plasmids containing the correct sized insert, were further subjected to restriction mapping with *Eco*RI, *Hpa*I, *Kpn*I and *Sma*I. The plasmids that displayed the correct restriction maps were analysed by DNA sequencing of both strands across the gene coding for SCR 1 + 2. Plasmid pDB1010-D11 was identified as having the correct sequence across the gene coding for SCR 1 + 2.

Example 2 Construction, expression, purification, folding and formulation of MQ1 → K196 of CR-1 (SCR 1+2+3)

General Points

[0078] The DNA coding for SCR 1+2+3 was constructed by ligating DNA coding for SCR 1+2 (Example 1a) to DNA encoding SCR 3.

[0079] General points relating to SCR 3 are presented in Example 9.

[0080] The SCR 3 coding unit corresponding to amino acid 122 and ending at amino acid 196 of mature CR1, was designed such that 5' end of the unit contained the *Eco*RI site at the junction of SCR's 2 & 3 as well as an *Nde*I site 5' to the *Eco*RI site. The 3' end of the unit finished on two stop codons followed by a *Hind*III site. The plasmids containing the SCR 3 coding unit and the SCR 1+2 coding unit were digested with *Eco*RI and *Hind*III. The SCR 3 coding unit was isolated and inserted downstream of the SCR 1+2 coding unit in the *Eco*RI/*Hind*III-cut SCR 1+2 - containing plasmid, to give a plasmid containing the SCR 1+2+3 coding unit, which corresponds to amino acids 1 to 196 of mature CR1. The addition of the SCR 3 coding unit through the *Eco*RI site, converts the codon corresponding to a glutamine at position 124 back to the authentic amino acid (proline) that is found in CR1.

(a) Construction of plasmid pDB1013-5-4 encoding SCR 1 + 2 + 3

Three pairs of oligonucleotides (Table 1; 9 - 14) encompassing the SCR3 coding sequence were synthesised. The oligonucleotides were first annealed as pairs (9, 10; 11,12; 13,14) and the middle pair kinased thus allowing the three pairs to be ligated together via 8 base pair overlapping sequences. The 5' end of this trimeric molecule was designed to be complementary to *Nde*I digested DNA and the 3' end to *Hind*III digested DNA. This enabled the trimer to be cloned into *Nde*I/*Hind*III digested pBROC413 generating pBROC435 (Fig.2). The identity of pBROC435 was checked by restriction enzyme analysis and confirmed by DNA sequencing.

Plasmid DNA from pBROC435 and pDB1010-D11 (Example 1) were both cut with *Eco*RI and *Hind*III; the *Eco*RI/*Hind*III band of pBROC435 coding for SCR 3 was purified on an DEAE NA45 membrane as was the cut vector pDB1010-D11. The SCR 3 coding unit was then ligated into pDB1010-D11 to generate pDB1013-5 which was then transformed into calcium chloride competent *E. coli* HB101. The resulting colonies were analysed by mini-plasmid preparation of DNA followed by restriction mapping. One of the colonies, termed pDB1013-5-4 (Fig.2), contained the SCR 1+2+3 coding unit. This plasmid was then analysed for expression of the gene product.

(b) Expression of SCR 1 + 2 + 3

pDB1013-5-4 was transformed into calcium chloride competent *E. coli* BL21(DE3) and resulting colonies analysed by restriction digestion of mini-plasmid DNA preparations. Single colonies were inoculated into universals containing 10 ml of L broth or NCYZM medium and 50 µg/ml ampicillin and allowed to grow overnight at 37°C, 220 r.p.m. The overnight cultures (typically 5ml) were used to inoculate each of 2 L conical flasks containing 500 mls of NCYZM medium, 150 µg/ml ampicillin; cultures were grown at 37°C, 220 r.p.m. until A_{600} was 0.5 absorbance units. Cultures were induced with 1 mM isopropylthio-β-D-galactoside (IPTG) and allowed to grow a further 3 hours under the same conditions. The cultures were centrifuged (approx. 8000g/10 min) and the supernatants discarded. The cell pellets were stored at -40°C. L broth was 1% (w/v) Bactotryptone, 0.5% (w/v) Bactoyeastextract, 0.5% (w/v) NaCl. NCYZM media was L-broth containing 0.1% (w/v) casamino acids and 0.2% (w/v) $MgSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$, pH 7.0.

(c) Isolation of solubilised inclusion bodies

Frozen cell pellet of *E. coli* BL21 DE3 (pDB1013-5-4) (1 litre culture) prepared in a similar way to that described in Example 2b. was allowed to thaw at 4°C for 2 h and was then resuspended in 50 mM Tris/50 mM NaCl/1 mM EDTA/0.1 mM PMSF pH 8.0 (33 ml). The suspension was transferred to a 100 ml glass beaker and sonicated (Heat Systems - Ultrasonics W380; 70 Watts, 50 x 50% pulse, pulse time =5 sec.). The sonicate was immediately centrifuged (6000g/4°C/10 min) and the supernatant was discarded. The pellet, containing the inclusion bodies, was resuspended in 20 mM Tris/8 M urea/50 mM 2-mercaptoethanol/1 mM EDTA/0.1 mM PMSF pH 8.5 (100 ml) and left static at room temperature (approx. 23°C) for 1 h. The resulting solution was centrifuged (approx. 2000 g at 4°C for

10 min) to remove any material that had failed to solubilise. The supernatant of this spin was retained at -40°C as the solubilised inclusion body product.

(d) Purification of SCR 1 + 2 + 3 from the solubilised inclusion body

A column (i.d., 16 mm; h, 10 mm) of S-Sepharose Fast Flow was prepared and connected into an FPLC (Pharmacia) system. The column was equilibrated with 20 mM Tris/8M urea/1 mM EDTA/50 mM 2-mercaptoethanol pH 8.5. 10 ml of thawed, solubilised inclusion body, prepared as described in Example 2c, was applied to the column and washed through with equilibration buffer. The column was then developed with a linear gradient to 1M NaCl (in equilibration buffer) followed by rinses with 1M NaCl and 2M NaCl (also in equilibration buffer). All the chromatography was at 1.0 ml min⁻¹ and at room temperature.

Analysis by SDS PAGE/protein staining of the fractions collected during the chromatography indicated that virtually all the SCR 1 + 2 + 3 polypeptide had adsorbed to the column and had been dissociated by the 1M NaCl - containing buffer. The appropriate fractions were stored at -40°C.

Subsequent assay for protein content of the peak fraction using the Bradford protein assay and a bovine serum albumin standard showed it contained 2.8 mg protein.

(e) Folding

S-Sepharose - purified SCR 1 + 2 + 3 that had been purified in a similar way to that described in Example 2d and stored at -40°C was thawed and 0.4 ml buffer-exchanged into 0.05 M formic acid using Sephaex G25 (P10). The absorbance at 280 nm of the buffer-exchanged solution was determined as 0.52, and, using $\epsilon = 34000$ and appropriate correction factors for dilution, the protein concentration of the original preparation (prior to buffer-exchange) was calculated to be 0.6 mg/ml.

Based on this figure, 1.7 ml S-Sepharose - purified protein was diluted with 0.85 ml 20 mM Tris/8M urea/50 mM 2-mercaptoethanol/1M NaCl pH 8.5 to give a 0.4 mg/ml solution, on which the folding was carried out.

Folding was effected by a series of dilutions, using cold diluent at all times.

At t=0 h, 0.8 ml SCR1 + 2 + 3 (0.4 mg/ml) was added to 0.8 ml 20 mM Tris/1M urea/5 mM EDTA/3 mM 2-mercaptoethanol pH 8.0 (diluent) in a 30 ml polystyrene universal container. The solution was mixed thoroughly by gentle swirling and left static, capped, in a cold room (approx. 2 to 3°C).

At 1 h, 1.6 ml diluent was added and mixed.

At 2 h, 3.2 ml diluent was added and mixed.

At 4 h, 6.4 ml diluent was added and mixed.

The solution was left a further 20 h in the cold room, then ultrafiltered (YM5, Amicon Ltd) to approx. 1.4 ml. This was buffer-exchanged into 0.1M NH₄HCO₃ (2.5 ml) using Sephadex G25 (PD 10) in the cold room. The eluate was aliquoted and was stored at -40°C or lyophilised.

The product containing SCR 1 + 2 + 3 was analysed by SDS PAGE, followed by protein staining. In both non-reduced and reduced (with 2-mercaptoethanol 5% (v/v)) samples there was a single major band. The molecular weight of the reduced band, compared to reduced protein standards of known M_r, was approx. 24,000. The non-reduced protein (band) had a slightly faster mobility than the reduced protein (band).

The product was analysed in a functional haemolytic assay utilising antibody-sensitized sheep erythrocytes (Method (xvi)). The product showed concentration-dependent inhibition of the complement - mediated lysis of the erythrocytes with an IH50 around 0.4 µg/ml.

(f) Folding

Preparation, folding, processing and analysis were carried out exactly as described in Example 2e except

(1) the diluent for the folding was 20 mM ethanolamine (pH 10.0)

(2) the folded solution was ultrafiltered to a final volume of 1.55 ml, and

(3) the IH50 figure was determined as about 0.6 µg/ml.

(4) the recovery of product was approx. 100 per cent.

(g) Determination of N-terminal sequence of SCR 1 + 2 + 3

1ml samples of growing *E.coli* BL21 (DE3) containing plasmid pDB1013-5-4 were removed 3 hours post-induction with 1 mM IPTG as described in Example 2b. These samples were spun in an eppendorf centrifuge and the resultant pellets each resuspended in 200µl of reducing buffer (100 mM Tris pH6.8/200 mM dithiothreitol/4% (v/v) SDS/2% (v/v) bromophenol blue and 20% (v/v) glycerol and boiled for 5 minutes. 25µl samples were applied to a 14% polyacrylamide gel. When the electrophoresis was complete the proteins were transferred to a ProBlott membrane (Applied Biosystems) using a Sartoblot electroblotting apparatus (Sartorius) at 0.8 mA/cm² for 1 hour 40 mins using CAPS (3-[cyclohexylamino]-1-propanesulphonic acid) transfer buffer. After transfer the ProBlott membrane was stained (0.1% (v/v) Coomassie Blue R-250/40% (v/v) methanol/1% (v/v) acetic acid) for 20 seconds and destained using 50% (v/v) methanol. A band corresponding to a M_r approx 23,000 protein was excised and the N-terminal sequence determined using a Blott cartridge in an Applied Biosystems 477A Protein Sequencer.

The sequence of the first 20 amino acids was found to agree with the predicted sequence except that residue 3 could not be identified by the sequencing protocol used.

Example 3 Expression and purification of SCR 1 + 2 + 3 from a fermentation vessel

[0081]

(a) Fermentation of *E. coli* harbouring the plasmid pDB1013-5-4

E. coli BL21 (DE3) : pDB1013-5-4 was recovered from storage in liquid nitrogen by thawing a vial containing 1 ml of the culture and this was used to inoculate 100 ml of seed medium (NCYZM) containing ampicillin at 75 µg/ml. The primary and secondary seed stage fermentations were carried out in plain 500 ml shake flasks batched with 100 ml aliquots of NCYZM medium. The primary and secondary seed fermentation conditions were as follows : 37°C, 230 rpm on an orbital shaker with a 50 mm throw. The primary seed incubation time was 2 hours. The primary seed culture was used to inoculate secondary seed fermentation medium at 0.1% (v/v). The secondary seed was incubated for 14.5 hours.

Two 15 litre Biolafitte fermenters were each batched with 10 litres of NCYZM medium and 0.01% (v/v) Dow Corning DC1510 antifoam. The vessels plus media were sterilised using steam to 121°C for 45 minutes. Ampicillin sterilised by microfiltration (0.2 µm) was added aseptically to the vessel media to a final concentration of 150 µg/ml. The fermenters were inoculated at a level of 3% (v/v) from pooled secondary seed culture. The final stage incubation conditions were 37°C, agitator 400 rpm, airflow 5 l/min (0.5 vvm). The final stage fermentations were sampled aseptically pre-inoculation, at 0 hours and thence every half hour. The samples were monitored for increases in optical density (600 nm). When the OD₆₀₀ was ≥ 0.5, IPTG was added to give a final concentration of 1 mM. The fermentations were incubated for a further 3 hours.

The cells were recovered by centrifugation using 7000 g for 25 minutes. The total cell yield (wet weight) was 49.8 grammes.

(b) Inclusion body isolation.

Inclusion bodies from 23 g (wet weight) cell pellet were isolated and solubilised essentially as described in Example 2.

(c) Purification of denatured SCR 1 + 2 + 3

The volume of solubilised inclusion body from Example 3b was approx. 800 ml. To this viscous solution was added SP-Sepharose FF (100 ml gel bed, water washed and suction dried). The mixture was swirled vigorously and left static for 1h at room temperature. The supernatant was decanted and stored at -40°C. The remaining slurry was resuspended to a uniform suspension and poured into a glass jacket (i.d., 41.5 mm) and allowed to settle into a packed bed. This packed bed was connected into a low pressure chromatography system at 4°C and equilibrated with 0.02M Tris/8M urea/0.05M 2-mercaptoethanol/0.001 M EDTA pH 8.5. When the A₂₈₀ of the eluate had minimised, the buffer was changed (step-wise) to the equilibration buffer additionally containing 1 M NaCl. A single A₂₈₀ peak was eluted, in a volume of 90 ml (equivalent to approx. 1 Vt). The solution was clear and colourless and was estimated, by A₂₈₀ determination of a buffer-exchanged sample (using an ε = 25,000), to contain about 300 mg target protein. By SDS PAGE followed by protein stain the target protein was the major band present. The 90 ml product was stored at -40°C.

(d) Folding and further purification.

18 ml of the above product (nominal 60 mg) was diluted with 12 ml 0.02 M Tris/8M urea/1 M NaCl/0.05M 2-mercaptoethanol pH 8.5. The product (30 ml) was added as 5 ml aliquots at 1 min intervals to 930 ml freshly prepared, cold 0.02 M ethanolamine/0.001 M EDTA, with swirling, and left static for 1 h/4°C. Then reduced glutathione was added to 1 mM (by addition of 9.6 ml 0.1M GSH) and oxidised glutathione was added to 0.5 mM (by addition of 9.6 ml 0.05M GSSG). The solution was clear and was left static in the cold for approx. 70 h. The solution was then ultrafiltered using a YM10 membrane to a final retentate volume of about 10 ml; this retentate was cloudy. It was mixed with 90 ml 0.1 M NaH₂PO₄/1 M (NH₄)₂SO₄ pH 7.0 (Buffer A) at room temperature and then centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 20 min. The supernatant was decanted and SCR 1 + 2 + 3 protein isolated by chromatography of the supernatant on Butyl Toyopearl 650 S.

The column of Butyl Toyopearl (Vt ~ 12 ml) was equilibrated with Buffer A. The 100 ml supernatant was applied to the column and the column washed with Buffer A. It was then developed with a linear gradient of 100% Buffer A to 100% 0.1 M NaH₂PO₄ pH 7.0. All the chromatography was at room temperature at approx. 30 cmh⁻¹.

A major A₂₈₀ peak was eluted during the gradient. Fractions spanning the peak were analysed by SDS PAGE followed by protein stain. The most concentrated fractions of the peak contained essentially pure SCR 1 + 2 + 3 and were active in the haemolytic assay (Method (xvi))-(IH₅₀ ~ 0.3 µg/ml). They were stored at -40°C.

Example 4 Formulation of Butyl Toyopearl purified SCR 1 + 2 + 3.

[0082] Batches of SCR 1 + 2 + 3 that had been expressed, folded and purified in similar ways to batches described in Examples 2 and 3 and further purified by ammonium sulphate treatment and Butyl Toyopearl chromatography essentially as described in Example 3d were formulated into a useable product as follows.

[0083] Three such Butyl Toyopearl products were pooled to give a volume of about 31 ml. All 31 ml were buffer-exchanged into 0.05 M formic acid (prepared using 0.2 µm-filtered 'MilliQ' water) using a column of Sephadex G25. All the chromatography was at 50 cmh⁻¹ at 40°C. The eluate from the column was monitored at 280 nm and the Vo fraction was collected as a single fraction. The bulk of this fraction was lyophilised in aliquots.

[0084] Analysis of the Vo pool prior to lyophilisation by both SDS PAGE/stain and C8 reverse phase HPLC showed it to be essentially pure target protein. The pool demonstrated anti-haemolytic activity (IH₅₀ approx. 0.3 µg/ml) and the endotoxin content was low (< 1 ng/mg).

[0085] One of the lyophilised aliquots was shown to be soluble at 10mg ml⁻¹ in phosphate-buffered saline and showed complement inhibitory activity in the haemolytic assay (Method xvi); the IH₅₀ was 0.3µg/ml.

[0086] Another of the lyophilised aliquots was examined to determine the disulphide bridge pattern. All six correct (as predicted on the basis of a consensus SCR motif) disulphides were detected.

Example 5 Effect of SCR 1+2+3 on IgG-mediated activation of the classical pathway of complement, as measured by C3a release

[0087] Inhibition of heat aggregated IgG activated serum was carried out as described in Method (xvii). Heat aggregated IgG activates the classical pathway of complement. Different concentrations (typically 4 - 1000 µg/ml) of inhibitor were incubated with serum in the presence of heat aggregated IgG and the % inhibition of activation at each concentration was determined. The IC₅₀ of SCR 1+2+3 was determined as approximately 22 µg/ml indicating that SCR 1+2+3 can inhibit the classical pathway of complement.

Example 6 Effect of SCR 1+2+3 on zymosan A-mediated activation of the alternative pathway of complement, as measured by following C3a release.

[0088] Inhibition of zymosan A activated serum was carried out as described in Method (xvii). Different concentrations of SCR 1+2+3 (typically in the range 1 - 1000 µg/ml) were incubated with serum in the presence of zymosan A and the % inhibition of activation at each concentration was determined. From several different experiments the IC₅₀ was determined as 20 - 40 µg/ml indicating that SCR 1+2+3 can inhibit the alternative pathway of complement.

Example 7 Effect of SCR 1+2+3 on zymosan A-mediated activation of the alternative pathway of complement, as measured by C5a release.

[0089] Inhibition of zymosan A activated serum was carried out as described in Method (xvii) and assayed as described in Method (xvii). Different concentrations of SCR 1+2+3 (typically in the range 4 - 700 µg/ml) were incubated with serum in the presence of zymosan A and the % inhibition of activation at each concentration was determined. From several different experiments the IC₅₀ was determined as approximately 20 - 30 µg/ml, indicating that SCR 1 + 2 + 3 can inhibit the alternative pathway of complement.

Example 8 Endotoxin content determination of purified, folded and formulated SCR 1 + 2 + 3

[0090] A batch of final product SCR 1 + 2 + 3 was prepared essentially as described in Example 4 above and was measured for endotoxin content using a method based on the gel-clot reaction of limulus amoebocyte lysate (LAL) (Atlas Bioscan Ltd.). The sensitivity of the assay was 0.125 EU/ml and this was checked by titration against a doubling dilution series prepared from standard *E. coli* endotoxin supplied with the LAL kit.

[0091] 10-fold dilutions of ~ 1.3 mg/ml SCR 1 + 2 + 3 protein stock were tested in quadruplicate for their effect on LAL by adding 10µl of sample to 10µl LAL. After 1h at 37°C the mixtures were tested for either clotting or remaining liquid. (Solutions that contain at least 0.125 EU endotoxin will clot this LAL preparation.) After taking into account the results of simultaneous tests designed to test for interference, it was concluded that the endotoxin content of the SCR 1 + 2 + 3 protein preparation was < 12.5 EU/ml, equivalent to approx. < 1 ng/mg protein.

Example 9 Expression, folding, purification, and formulation of MR122 → K196 of CR-1 (SCR 3)

General Points

[0092] The sequence for SCR 3 corresponding to amino acid 122 and ending at amino acid 196 of mature human complement receptor 1 was designed such that the 5' end of the gene contained an *Nde*I restriction endonuclease site. This site comprises an ATG start codon to give the initiating methionine required for the start of mRNA translation and allows the placement of the gene an optimum distance from the Shine-Dalgarno ribosome binding site of pBROC413. This codon is followed immediately by the gene coding for SCR 3 starting with arginine 122 of mature human complement receptor 1. The 3' end of the gene finishes with a codon for lysine 196 followed by two stop codons followed by a *Hind*III site.

[0093] The DNA coding for SCR3 was modified for optimum codon usage in *E. coli* as described in the methods. The gene was also altered to incorporate unique restriction endonuclease sites. This was carried out in the following way. Restriction endonucleases that do not cut pBROC413 and were commercially available were identified. The DNA sequence of these restriction endonuclease sites was then translated into all three reading frames and the codon usage examined. Sites that contained codons that are rarely used by *E. coli* were discarded. The remaining sites were examined for their translated sequence and if that sequence matched with SCR 3, the restriction site was incorporated into the sequence.

(a) Construction of plasmid pBROC435 encoding SCR 3

The construction of pBROC435 is described in Example 2a

(b) Expression of SCR 3 from pBROC435

pBROC435 was transformed by electroporation into *E. coli* BL21(DE3) and resulting colonies analysed by restriction digestion of mini-plasmid DNA preparations. Single colonies were inoculated into universals containing 10 ml of L broth or NCYZM medium and 50-75 µg/ml ampicillin and allowed to grow overnight at 37°C, 220 r.p.m. Typically 4ml of overnight cultures were used to inoculate each of 2 L conical flasks containing 500 ml of NCYZM medium, 150 µg/ml ampicillin; cultures were grown at 37°C, 230r.p.m. until A_{600} was 0.5 absorbance units. Cultures were induced with 1 mM IPTG and allowed to grow a further 3 hours under the same conditions. The cultures were centrifuged (approx. 8000g/10 min) and the supernatants discarded. The cell pellets were stored at -40°C.

(c) Isolation of solubilised inclusion bodies

The frozen cell pellet of *E. coli* (from 3 1 growth culture in NCYZM) described in Example 9b was allowed to thaw at room temperature for 2 h and was then resuspended in 50 mM Tris/50mM NaCl/1mM EDTA/0.1 mM PMSF pH 8.0 (90ml). The suspension was transferred to a 200 ml glass beaker and sonicated (Heat Systems - Ultrasonics W380 70 Watts, 50 x 50% pulse, pulse time =5 sec.). The sonicate was immediately centrifuged (6000g/4°C/10 min) and the supernatant was discarded. The pellet, containing the inclusion bodies, was resuspended in 20 mM Tris/8 M urea/50 mM 2-mercaptoethanol/1 mM EDTA/0.1mM PMSF pH 8.5 (300ml) with gentle pipetting to mix. After mixing, the solution was left static at room temperature (approx. 23° C) for 1h. The resulting solution was centrifuged (2000 g at 4° C for 10 min) to remove material that failed to solubilise. The supernatant of this spin was retained at -40° C as the solubilised inclusion body product.

(d) Purification of SCR3 from the solubilised inclusion body

A column (i.d., 32 mm; h, 32mm) of Q-Sepharose Fast flow (Pharmacia) was prepared and equilibrated with 20 mM Tris/8M urea/50 mM 2-mercaptoethanol pH 9.0. 200 ml of thawed, solubilised inclusion body, prepared as in Example 9c, was applied to the column and washed through with equilibration buffer. The column was connected to an FPLC system and developed via a stepwise gradient of 0.1, 1.0, 2.0M NaCl (also in equilibration buffer). All chromatography was at 2.0 ml min⁻¹ and at room temperature.

Analysis by SDS PAGE/protein staining of the fractions collected during the chromatography indicated that virtually all the SCR3 did not bind to the column. Many other proteins had absorbed to the column however and had been dissociated by the 0.1M and 1M NaCl - containing buffers. The purity of SCR3 in the unadsorbed fraction was estimated to be about 80%.

(e) Folding of SCR3

Q-Sepharose-purified SCR3 that had been purified as described in Example 9d and stored at -40°C was thawed and was folded by a series of dilutions, using cold diluent. At t=0, 100 ml 20 mM Tris/1M urea/5mM EDTA/3mM 2-mercaptoethanol pH 8.0 (diluent) were added to 100ml SCR3. At this stage the solution was turbid in appearance. The solution was mixed thoroughly by gentle swirling and left static, capped, in a cold room (2-3°C). At 1 h, 200ml diluent was added and mixed, final volume = 400 ml. At 2 h, 400ml diluent was added and mixed, final volume = 800ml. At 4 h 800ml of diluent was added and mixed, final volume = 1.6L. The solution was left for a further 20 h in the cold room. The solution now appeared clear, and it was stored at -40°C in aliquots.

(f) Formulation of SCR3

50 ml of SCR3 prepared as in Example 9e were thawed and ultrafiltered to 3.5 ml using a 2000 Da cut-off membrane (Amicon). 2.5 ml of the concentrate was buffer-exchanged into 0.1M NH_4HCO_3 (3.0 ml) using Sephadex G25 (PD 10). Subsequent analysis for protein content using the molar extinction coefficient of 11000 showed this sample contained approx 0.24mg/ml.

Analysis of this material by SDS PAGE/protein staining indicated that the protein was about 80% pure. Samples reduced with 2-mercaptoethanol had a lower electrophoretic mobility suggesting the presence of disulphide bonds in SCR3.

Analysis of this sample in the haemolytic assay (Method (xvi)) showed it had an IH50 of approx. 10- 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$.

(g) Determination of N-terminal sequence of expressed SCR3

200 μl SCR3 prepared and formulated in 0.1M NH_4HCO_3 as in Example 9f was precipitated with 800 μl cold acetone in a cardiac/ethanol bath for 60 mins. The sample was then spun in an Eppendorf centrifuge (approx 10,000g/20 mins) and the resultant pellet resuspended with heating in sample buffer containing 5% (v/v) 2-mercaptoethanol. 30 μl samples were electrophoresed on a 4 to 20% SDS-containing polyacrylamide gradient gel. When the electrophoresis was complete the proteins were transferred to a ProBlott membrane (Applied Biosystems) using an electroblotting apparatus at 200mA for 2 h using CAPS in 10% methanol/90% H_2O (v/v) transfer buffer. After transfer the ProBlott membrane was stained (0.1%(w/v) Coomassie Blue), destained, rinsed and air dried according to the manufacturers instructions. Sections of the membrane were excised and used for N-terminal sequencing.

The sequence of the first 20 amino acids of the major band was as expected for SCR3 with the exception of residue 5, which could not be identified.

(h) Preparation, folding and formulation of SCR3

Preparation and folding were carried out exactly as described in Example 9a-9e. 400 ml of folded SCR3 was ultrafiltered through a 30 KDa cut-off filter (Amicon) at 4° C. Samples of the ultrafiltrate were processed in two ways.

1. 50 ml were ultrafiltered using a 2 KDa cut-off membrane to a final volume of 3.5ml and buffer-exchanged into 0.05 M formic acid (6.7 ml) using Sephadex G25 (PD10) columns. The total amount of SCR3 estimated by the absorbance at 280 nm was 0.6mg. Analysis by SDS PAGE/protein staining indicated that the protein had a purity of about 95%. The sample was freeze-dried and stored at -40°C.

2. 100ml of the ultrafiltrate were adjusted to pH 5.5 with HCl. The sample was applied to a Mono S column (1ml) at 1.5 ml min^{-1} and washed through with equilibration buffer (20mM Tris.HCl pH 5.5). The column was then developed with a step gradient of 0.1, 1.0 and 2.0M NaCl (also in equilibration buffer). All remaining chromatography was at 1.0 ml min^{-1} and at room temperature.

Analysis by SDS PAGE/protein staining of the fractions collected during the chromatography demonstrated that the major band dissociated at 1M NaCl contained SCR3 at about 95% purity.

Example 10 Expression, folding, purification and formulation of MR122-S253 of CR-1 (SCR 3 + 4)

[0094]

(a) Construction of plasmid pDB1019 encoding SCR 3 + 4

The DNA coding for SCR 3 + 4 was constructed from the plasmids pBROC435 (Example 2) and pDB1018-1 (Example 11) which carry the genes coding for SCR 3 and SCR 1 + 2 + 3 +4 respectively. The SCR 4 coding unit was excised from pDB1018-1 and ligated onto the end of the SCR 3 coding unit in pBROC435.

pDB1018-1 was digested with *SpeI* and *HindIII* and separated on a 1 % agarose gel. The band which codes for SCR 4 (~ 245 bp) was excised from the gel and purified using the QIAEX extraction kit. Plasmid pBROC435 was also cut with *SpeI* and *HindIII*, separated on 1 % agarose, excised from the agarose and purified with the QIAEX kit. The SCR 4 coding DNA was then ligated into the cut pBROC435 plasmid to give pDB1019. This DNA was used to transform *E. coli* HB101 made competent with CaCl_2 . Transformants were analysed by restriction analysis using *EcoRI* and *HindIII*. Clones carrying the correct sized insert were used for expression studies.

(b) Expression of SCR 3 + 4 from pDB1019-1C

pDB1019 was transformed into *E. coli* BL21(DE3) made competent with CaCl_2 and the resulting colonies were analysed by restriction digestion of mini-plasmid DNA preparations. Plasmid pDB1019-1C was identified as carrying the correct sized insert. Single colonies of *E. coli* BL21(DE3) carrying pDB1019-1C were inoculated into ten universals containing 10 mls of NCYZM medium and 75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ampicillin and allowed to grow overnight at 37°C, 240 r.p.m. The overnight cultures were then used to inoculate eight 2 L conical flasks (5 ml/flask) containing 500 ml of NCYZM medium, 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ampicillin. Cultures were grown at 37°C, 240 r.p.m. until A_{600} was 0.5 absorbance units. At this point cultures were induced with 1 mM IPTG and allowed to grow a further 3 hours under the same

conditions. The cultures were centrifuged (approx. 8000g/ 10 mins) and the supernatants were discarded. The cell pellets were stored at -40°C.

(c) Isolation, purification, folding and formulation of SCR 3 + 4

The methods used generally follow those described earlier for the preparation of SCR 1 + 2 + 3.

Isolation of solubilised inclusion bodies from cell pellet derived from 21 culture was carried out as described in Example 2c. The volume of solubilise was 200 ml.

Some of the contaminating (host) *E. coli* proteins were removed from the preparation by adsorption onto S-Sepharose, either in a batch process or by column chromatography, using systems similar to those described in Example 2d. The protein present in the unadsorbed fractions was shown by SDS PAGE/stain to contain significant amounts of SCR 3 + 4 protein. About half of these fractions were ultrafiltered using a YM1 (Amicon) membrane to approx. 35 to 40 ml. This retentate was estimated to contain about 0.3 mg protein/ml (based on A_{280} determination of a buffer-exchanged sample, using $\epsilon = 21,000$). 10.5 ml of the retentate was mixed with 325 ml cold 20 mM ethanolamine and left static at 4°C for 1 hour. Then reduced glutathione was added to 1 mM (by addition of 3.4 ml 100mM GSH) and oxidised glutathione was added to 0.5mM (by addition of 3.4ml 50mM GSSG). The solution was mixed and left static at 4°C for ~ 72 h. The solution was clear. The solution was then ultrafiltered using a YM1 membrane to a retentate of 5 ml. The retentate was divided in two and buffer-exchanged into either 20 mM ethanolamine or 50 mM formic acid using Sephadex G25 (PD10 columns).

Analysis of the formic acid SCR 3 +4 product by reverse phase HPLC and by SDS PAGE followed by protein staining showed only one major protein species (> 90% pure). The protein concentration was estimated to be 0.3 mg/ml using A_{280} determinations. The product was active in the haemolytic assay (Method (xvi)); the IH50 value was approx. 30 µg/ml

Example 11 Construction, expression, folding, purification and formulation of MQ1-S253 of CR-1 (SCR 1 + 2 + 3 + 4)

General points

[0095] Two constructs were prepared by making a plasmid encoding SCR 1+2, incorporating SCR3 and finally adding SCR4. The two constructs encoded consensus SCR1 to 4 and the R235H mutation of SCR1 to 4 (Example 12).

[0096] A plasmid containing the SCR 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 coding unit was constructed by adding the DNA encoding SCR 4 onto the construct coding for SCR 1 + 2 + 3 (Example 2). For convenience of DNA manipulation, the SCR 4 DNA coding unit was made by synthesising the DNA encoding the last 17 amino acids of SCR 3 followed by the DNA coding for the linker region followed by SCR 4. This DNA started at the *SpeI* site of the SCR 1 + 2 + 3 coding construct which corresponds to T175 of mature CR-1 followed by the DNA coding for the linker region followed by SCR 4 ending on the codon corresponding to S253 followed by two stop codons and a *HindIII* site. As for the previous constructs the DNA encoding SCR 4 was altered for optimised codon usage and restriction sites as previously described in Example 1. This unit of DNA was ligated to the plasmid coding for SCR 1 + 2 + 3 which had been cut with *SpeI* and *HindIII* to give a construct coding for SCR 1 + 2 + 3 + 4.

(a) Construction of plasmid pDB1018 encoding SCR 1 + 2 + 3 + 4

Oligonucleotides (Table 1; oligos 21 - 26 coding for SCR4) were synthesised as 3 complementary pairs of 68-90 mers that could be ligated in a unique fashion via complementary 8 bp overhangs between the pairs of oligonucleotides. The 3 complementary pairs of oligonucleotides were designated Pair E (oligos 21, 22), Pair F (oligos 23, 24) and Pair G (oligos 25, 26). Pair E which corresponds to the 5' end of the gene contained a *SpeI* restriction site overhang and Pair G contained a *HindIII* restriction site overhang at the 3' end. All oligonucleotides apart from 22 and 24 were purified by electrophoresis through a denaturing polyacrylamide gel followed by reverse phase chromatography (C_{18}). Oligonucleotides 22, 23, 24 and 25 were kinased before annealing to their complementary oligonucleotides. The oligonucleotides were ligated pair E to pair F to pair G to form the gene coding for part of SCR3 and the whole of SCR4 which for convenience will be called the SCR4 gene in the subsequent text.

The DNA coding for SCR4 was initially amplified by PCR using two oligonucleotides (Table 1; oligos 17 and 18) complementary to the two strands of DNA. Both oligonucleotides contained 5' unmatched ends that contained 6bp of random sequence followed by the sequence of either *SpeI* (oligo 17) or *HindIII* (oligo 18) restriction sites followed by 18 bp complementary to the gene. Following PCR a band of approximately 250 bp was visualised on horizontal agarose gel electrophoresis, which was excised and purified on DEAE NA45 membranes. This DNA was used for a second PCR amplification using nested primers that had been moved inwards by four nucleotides at their 5' ends (Table 1; oligo 19, oligo 20). These oligo's incorporated the *SpeI* and *HindIII* restriction sites but now only had 2 nucleotides beyond the end of each restriction site. Following PCR a band of approx. 250 bp was visualised on horizontal agarose gel electrophoresis. This band was excised and purified using the QIAEX agarose gel extrac-

tion kit.

The DNA for SCR 4 was blunt-end ligated to itself following kinasing. The multimers formed were visualized by horizontal agarose gel electrophoresis and the bands excised and purified using the QIAEX agarose gel extraction kit. The DNA was then cut with *Spe* I and *Hind* III and ligated into pDB1013-5-4 that had been cut with the same enzymes to produce pDB1018 (Fig.3). The vector was transformed into *E.coli* HB101 made competent with calcium chloride. Mini-plasmid preparations were made and plasmid DNA analysed by digestion with *Nde* I, *Hind* III, *Stu* I, *Spe* I and *Kpn* I. The plasmids with the correct restriction maps were analysed by DNA sequencing of both strands across the gene encoding SCR4. Two plasmids were selected for further study. pDB1018-1, which encoded MQ1-S253 (consensus SCR1 to 4) and pDB1018-6, which encoded the R235H mutant of MQ1-S253. The amino acid sequences of the two polypeptides encoded by pDB1018-1 and pDB1018-6 are shown in Table 2.

Taking the first residue as being the A of the ATG initiating codon, DNA sequencing revealed that residue 600 of pDB1018-6 had been altered from G → A. This is a silent mutation and does not alter the amino acid at this position.

(b) Expression of MQ1-S253 from pDB1018-1

pDB1018-1, constructed as described in Example 11a, was transformed into calcium chloride competent *E.coli* BL21(DE3). Single colonies were inoculated into universals containing 10ml of NZCYM medium and 75 µg/ml ampicillin and allowed to grow overnight at 37°C, 230 r.p.m. 3ml of overnight culture were used to inoculate each of 8 x 2 litre conical flasks containing 500ml of NZCYM medium, 150 µg/ml ampicillin; cultures were grown at 37°C, 230 r.p.m. until A_{600} reached 0.5 absorbance units. The cultures were induced with 1mM IPTG and allowed to grow for a further 3 hours under the same conditions. The cultures were centrifuged (approx. 7000g/10 mins/4°C) and the supernatants discarded. The cell pellets were stored at -40°C.

(c) Isolation of solubilised inclusion bodies

The frozen cell pellets of *E.coli* BL21(DE3) (pDB1018-1) each equivalent to 1 litre of culture prepared as described in Example 11b were allowed to thaw at 0-4°C over 2 hours. The pellets were resuspended in 50mM Tris/50mM NaCl/1mM EDTA/0.1mM PMSF pH 8.0; 30ml for each litre pellet. Each suspension was transferred to a 100ml glass beaker and sonicated (Heat systems - Ultrasonics W380; 70 Watts, 50 x 50% pulse, pulse time = 5 seconds). The sonicates were pooled and immediately centrifuged (6,000 g/4°C/10 mins) and the supernatant discarded. The pellet containing the inclusion bodies was resuspended in 20 mM Tris/8 M urea/50mM 2-mercaptoethanol/1mM EDTA/0.1mM PMSF pH 8.5 (400 ml), thoroughly mixed and left static at room temperature (approx. 23°C) for 1 hour.

(d) Purification of MQ1-S253 from the solubilised inclusion body.

30ml of S-Sepharose FF that had been washed with deionised water and suction dried was added to the inclusion body solution described in Example 11c, and vigorously shaken for 30 seconds. The S-Sepharose mixture was left static at room temperature (23°C) for 1.5 hours and then the supernatant was discarded. The remaining slurry was packed into a column (id. 4.1cm). The column was equilibrated using 20mM Tris/8M urea/50mM 2-mercaptoethanol/1mM EDTA/0.1mM PMSF pH 8.5 at 60 cmh⁻¹, 4°C. MQ1-S253 protein was eluted using the equilibration buffer containing 1M NaCl. Analysis by SDS PAGE/protein staining of the fractions collected during the chromatography indicated that virtually all the target protein had adsorbed to the column and had been dissociated by the 1M NaCl wash. The appropriate fraction was stored at -40°C.

(e) Folding and formulation

Based on a molar extinction coefficient of 25,000 and A_{280} values determined in 50mM formic acid, 60 mg of the S-Sepharose purified unfolded protein described in Example 11d was folded and formulated as follows :-

8.0ml of solution (equivalent to 60 mg protein) was diluted with 22ml cold 20mM Tris/8M urea/50mM 2-mercaptoethanol/1M NaCl/1mM EDTA/0.1mM PMSF pH8.5, to give 30ml of a 2.0 mg/ml solution. The 30ml was diluted rapidly with constant stirring into 930ml cold (0-4°C) freshly prepared 20mM ethanolamine. The solution was left static at 0-4°C for 1 hour. Reduced glutathione was added to 1mM (by addition of 9.6ml of 100mM stock) and then oxidised glutathione was added to 0.5mM (by addition of 9.6ml of 50mM stock). The solution was left static at 0-4°C for a further 48 hours and then ultrafiltered using a stirred cell (Amicon) and a YM10 membrane (Amicon, nominal 10,000 Da molecular weight cut-off) to approx. 29ml. The ultrafiltered retentate was buffer exchanged into 50 mM formic acid using Sephadex G25 (i.d., 26mm; h, 245mm Vt, 123ml) and a flow rate of 50 cmh⁻¹ to a final volume of 40ml. Using a molar extinction coefficient of 25,000 for the protein 51mg of protein was recovered. The purified protein gave an IH_{50} value (see Method xvi) of approximately 2 µg/ml.

(f) Further purification and formulation of SCR1 + 2 + 3 + 4.

Folded SCR1 + 2 + 3 + 4 (nominal 25mg) in 50mM formic acid prepared essentially as described in Example 11e was lyophilised. The lyophilisate was resolubilised in 20mM ethanolamine (10ml) to give a cloudy solution. The 10ml were then added to 90ml 0.1M NaH₂PO₄/1M (NH₄)₂SO₄ pH 7.0, thoroughly mixed, and then clarified by centrifugation (4000 rpm/20 min). The supernatant (100ml) was decanted and was chromatographed on Butyl Toyopearl (exactly as described for SCR1 + 2 + 3 in Example 3d). The peak A_{280} fractions, eluting at about 100% of the

1M NaCl-containing buffer, were pooled and buffer-exchanged using Sephadex G25 into 50mM formic acid. The V_0 pool (29.5ml) was lyophilised in aliquots.

The purity of the protein was assessed by SDS PAGE followed by protein staining and by C8 reverse-phase HPLC; the protein was estimated to be >95% pure. One of the lyophilised aliquots was resolubilised to 4mg protein/ml in 0.1M HEPES/0.15M NaCl pH7.4. The product showed activity in the haemolytic assay (Method (xvi)); the IH50 was calculated to be 0.3 µg/ml.

Another of the lyophilised aliquots was examined to determine the disulphide bridge pattern using proteolytic digestion and peptide identification by amino acid sequencing. All eight correct (as predicted on the basis of a consensus SCR motif) disulphides were detected.

Example 12 Expression, isolation, folding and formulation of purified MQ1-S253 (R235H)

[0097]

(a) Expression of MQ1-S253 (R235H)

pDB1018-6 (prepared as described in Example 11a) was transformed into calcium chloride competent *E. coli* BL21(DE3). Single colonies were inoculated into universals containing 10 ml of NCYZM medium and 50 µg/ml ampicillin and allowed to grow overnight at 37°C, 220 r.p.m. The overnight cultures (approx. 3ml) were used to inoculate each of 21 conical flasks containing 500 ml of NCYZM medium, 150 µg/ml ampicillin; cultures were grown at 37°C, 220 r.p.m. until A_{600} was 0.5 absorbance units. Cultures were induced with 1 mM IPTG and allowed to grow a further 3 hours under the same conditions. The cultures were centrifuged (approx. 8000g/10 min/4°C) and the supernatants discarded. The cell pellets were stored at -40°C.

(b) Isolation of solubilised inclusion bodies and purification of unfolded MQ1-S253 (R235H)

Frozen cell pellet of *E. coli* BL21 DE3 (pDB1018-6) (2 litre culture) described in Example 12a was allowed to thaw at 4°C for 2 h and was then resuspended in 50 mM Tris/50 mM NaCl/1 mM EDTA/0.1 mM PMSF pH 8.0 (66 ml). The suspension was transferred to a 250 ml glass beaker and sonicated (Heat Systems - Ultrasonics W380; 70 Watts, 30 x 50% pulse time = 5 seconds). The sonicate was immediately centrifuged (6000g/4°C/10 min) and the supernatant was discarded. The pellet, containing the inclusion bodies, was resuspended by vigorous swirling in 20 mM Tris/8 M urea/50 mM 2-mercaptoethanol/1 mM EDTA/0.1 mM PMSF pH 8.5 (200 ml) and left static at room temperature (approx. 23°C) for 1.5h. Water-washed, suction-dried 5-Sepharose (equivalent to approx. 25 ml packed bed volume) was added to the 200 ml solubilised inclusion body and the mixture swirled vigorously to wet the Sepharose beads thoroughly. The mixture was left static at room temperature for 1h. The supernatant (approximately 150 ml) was decanted and discarded. The slurry remaining was resuspended to a uniform suspension by swirling and then poured into a 32 mm (i.d.) glass jacket and allowed to settle. The gel bed was connected into a low pressure chromatography system and was equilibrated with 20 mM Tris/8 M urea/1 mM EDTA/50mM 2-mercaptoethanol pH 8.5 at 4°C until the A_{280} baseline stabilised. The column was then developed with equilibration buffer containing 1M NaCl. All the chromatography was at approx. 1 ml min⁻¹. Analysis by SDS PAGE/protein staining of the fractions collected during the chromatography indicated that most of the MQ1-S253 (R235H) polypeptide had adsorbed to the column and had been dissociated by the 1M NaCl - containing buffer wash and that the purity of the material was about 90%.

A sample of the pool was buffer-exchanged into 50mM formic acid using Sephadex G25 column to allow some assays to be carried out.

Amino acid analysis of the pool of the MQ1-S253 (R235H) - containing fractions gave a total protein content of about 120 mg.

(c) Folding and formulation of SCR 1 + 2 + 3 (R235H)

Based on A_{280} values and a molar extinction coefficient of 25,000 for the protein in 50mM formic acid, 20 mg of the S-Sepharose-purified unfolded protein described in Example 12b was folded and formulated as follows.

5.2 ml protein solution (equivalent to 20 mg) was diluted with 4.8 ml cold 20 mM Tris/8M urea/50 mM 2-mercaptoethanol/1M NaCl pH8.5, to yield 10 ml of a 2.0 mg/ml solution.

The 10 ml was diluted rapidly with constant stirring into 310 ml freshly prepared, cold (approx. 0-4°C) 20 mM ethanolamine. The solution was left static at 0-4°C for 1 h. Then reduced glutathione was added to 1 mM (by addition of 2.56 ml 125 mM GSH). Then oxidised glutathione was added to 0.5 mM (by addition of 3.2 ml 50 mM GSSG). The solution was left static, in the cold room (~ -2-3°C), for a further 48 h. The solution was then ultrafiltered using a stirred cell and a YM10 (nominal 10,000 molecular weight cut-off) membrane to approximately 2 ml. The solution was clear. The ultrafiltration cell was washed with approximately 2 ml 20 mM ethanolamine and the wash and the ultrafiltered retentate were pooled to give a final volume of 3.7 ml.

2.2 ml of this solution was buffer-exchanged into 3.2 ml 50 mM formic acid using Sephadex G25 (PD10). The buffer-exchanged material was regarded as the product, and it was stored at -40°C. Analysis of an aliquot of the

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product showed it contained 1.6 mg protein/ml, that by SDS PAGE under non-reducing conditions a single major band of $M_r \sim 28,000$ was present and that N-terminal sequencing of the band (MQXNAPE) was consistent with the expected sequence. In addition the preparation gave an IH_{50} value (see Method (xvi)) of approximately 1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$.

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IN THE FIGURES

[0098]

- 5 Fig. 1 Plasmid pBROC413. *bla* indicates the ampicillin resistance gene, ϕ 10 the T7 RNA polymerase promoter and *rb*s the ribosome binding site. Arrows for ϕ 10 and *bla* give the direction of transcription. The polylinker site has been indicated. The plasmid is not drawn to scale and the size is approximate.
- Figure 2 illustrates the construction from pDB1010-D11 and pBROC435 of plasmid pDB1013-5-4 coding for SCR 1 + 2 + 3. Plasmid sizes are approximate and are not drawn to scale.
- 10 Figure 3 illustrates the construction from pDB1013-5-4 of pDB1018 coding for SCR 1+2+3+4. Plasmid sizes are approximate and are not drawn to scale.

REFERENCES USED IN EXAMPLES OR GENERAL METHODS

15 [0099]

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TABLE 1

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OLIGO 1 = SEQ ID NO: 1
OLIGO 2 = SEQ ID NO: 2
OLIGO 3 = SEQ ID NO: 3
OLIGO 4 = SEQ ID NO: 4
OLIGO 5 = SEQ ID NO: 5
OLIGO 6 = SEQ ID NO: 6
OLIGO 7 = SEQ ID NO: 7
OLIGO 8 = SEQ ID NO: 8
OLIGO 9 = SEQ ID NO: 9
OLIGO 10 = SEQ ID NO: 10
OLIGO 11 = SEQ ID NO: 11
OLIGO 12 = SEQ ID NO: 12
OLIGO 13 = SEQ ID NO: 13
OLIGO 14 = SEQ ID NO: 14
OLIGO 15 = SEQ ID NO: 15

TABLE 1 (continued)

OLIGO 16 = SEQ ID NO: 16
 OLIGO 17 = SEQ ID NO: 17
 OLIGO 18 = SEQ ID NO: 18
 OLIGO 19 = SEQ ID NO: 19
 OLIGO 20 = SEQ ID NO: 20
 OLIGO 21 = SEQ ID NO: 21
 OLIGO 22 = SEQ ID NO: 22
 OLIGO 23 = SEQ ID NO: 23
 OLIGO 24 = SEQ ID NO: 24
 OLIGO 25 = SEQ ID NO: 25
 OLIGO 26 = SEQ ID NO: 26

TABLE 2

Amino acid sequences of proteins, deduced from the cDNA constructs.

The full deduced sequence of the proteins of the Examples are given as follows:

MQ1->K196 of CR-1 is given in SEQ ID NO: 27

MR122->K196 of CR-1 is given in SEQ ID NO: 28

MQ1-S253 of CR-1 is given in SEQ ID NO: 29

The R235H mutant of MQ1-S253 of CR-1 is given in SEQ ID NO: 30

MR122-S253 of CR-1 is given in SEQ ID NO: 31.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT: SmithKline Beecham p.l.c. -, - -

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Novel Compounds

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 31

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

(A) ADDRESSEE: SmithKline Beecham Corporate Patents

(B) STREET: Great Burgh, Yew Tree Bottom Road

(C) CITY: Epsom

(D) STATE: Surrey

(E) COUNTRY: England

(F) ZIP: KT18 5XQ

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk

(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible

(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS

(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER:

(B) FILING DATE:

(C) CLASSIFICATION:

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

(A) NAME: Valentine, Jill B

(B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: G.A. 26758

(C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: P30423

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

(A) TELEPHONE: 0737364158

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 87 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

TATGCAGTGC AACGCTCCGG AATGGCTGCC GTTCGCGCGC CCGACCAACC TGACTGATGA 60
ATTGAGTTC CCGATCGGTA CCTACCT 87

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 93 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

CGTAGTTCAG GTAGGTACCG ATCGGGAAC CAAATTCATC AGTCAGGTTG GTCGGGCGCG 60
CGAACGGCAG CCATTCCGGA GCGTTGCACT GCA 93

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 101 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

GAACTACGAA TGCCGCCCGG GTTATAGCGG CCGCCCGTTT TCTATCATCT GCCTGAAAAA 60

CTCTGTCTGG ACTGGTGCTA AGGACCGTTG CCGACGTAAA T

101

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 101 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

ACGACAAGAT TTACGTCGGC AACGGTCCTT AGCACCAGTC CAGACAGAGT TTTTCAGGCA

60

GATGATAGAA AACGGGCGGC CGCTATAACC CGGGCGGCAT T

101

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 101 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

CTTGTCGTAA TCCGCCAGAT CCGGTTAACG GCATGGTGCA TGTGATCAAA GGCATCCAGT

60

TCGGTTCCTA AATTAAATAT TCTTGTTACTA AAGGTTACCG T

101

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 101 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

CCAATCAGAC GGTAACCTTT AGTACAAGAA TATTTAATT GGGAACCGAA CTGGATGCCT 60
 TTGATCACAT GCACCATGCC GTTAACCGGA TCTGGCGGAT T 101

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 94 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

CTGATTGGTT CCTCCAGCGC TACATGCATC ATCTCTGGTG ATACTGTCAT TTGGGATAAT 60
 GAAACACCGA TTTGTGACCG AATTCAGTAA TAAA 94

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 90 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

AGCTTTTATT ACTGAATTCG GTCACAAATC GGTGTTTCAT TATCCCAAAT GACAGTATCA 60
 CCAGAGATGA TGCATGTAGC GCTGGAGGAA 90

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 72 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

TATGCGAATT CCGTGTGGTC TGCCGCCGAC CATCACCAAC GGTGATTTC TCTCTACCAA 60
TCGCGAGAAT TT 72

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 78 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

CATAGTGAAA ATTCTCGGA TTGGTAGAGA TGAAATCACC GTTGGTGATG GTCGGCGGCA 60
GACCACACGG AATTCGCA 78

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 85 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

TCACTATGGT TCTGTGGTGA CCTACCGCTG CAATCCGGGT AGCGGTGGTC GTAAGGTGTT 60

5 TGAGCTCGTG GGTGAGCCGT CCATC 85

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

- 10 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 85 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 15 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

20 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

GTGCAGTAGA TGGACGGCTC ACCCAGGAGC TCAAACACCT TACGACCACC GCTACCCGGA 60

25 TTGCAGCGGT AGGTCACCAC AGAAC 85

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

- 30 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 79 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 35 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

40 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

TACTGCACTA GTAATGACGA TCAAGTGGGC ATCTGGAGCG GCCCGGCACC GCAGTGCATC 60

45 ATCCCGAACA AATAATAAA 79

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:14:

- 50 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 75 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid

55

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

5

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:14:

10

AGCTTTTATT ATTGTTTCGG GATGATGCAC TGCGGTGCCG GGCCGCTCCA GATGCCCACT 60

TGATCGTCAT TACTA 75

15

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:15:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

20

(A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

25

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:15:

30

GAGACTCATA TGCAGTGCAA CGCTCCGGAA 30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:16:

35

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

40

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

45

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:16:

GTCAGCAAGC TTTTATTACT GAATTCGGTC 30

50

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:17:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

55

(A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:17:

ATCGTAACTA GTAACGACGA TCAAGTGGGC

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:18:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:18:

ATGACTAAGC TTTTATTATG AGCAGCTCGG

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:19:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 32 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:19:

TAACTAGTAA CGACGATCAA GTGGGCATCT GG

32

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:20:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 33 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:20:

CTAAGCTTTT ATTATGAGCA GCTCGGGAGT TCC

33

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:21:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 81 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:21:

CTAGTAACGA CGATCAAGTG GGCATCTGGA GCGGCCCGGC ACCGCAGTGC ATCATCCCGA

60

ACAAATGCAC GCCGCCAAAT G

81

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:22:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 85 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:22:

GTTCTCCACA TTTGGCGGCG TGCATTTGTT CGGGATGATG CACTGCGGTG CCGGGCCGCT

60

CCAGATGCCC ACTTGATCGT CGTTA

85

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:23:

- 5 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 90 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 10 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

15 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:23:

TGGAGAACGG TATCCTGGTA TCTGACAACC GTTCTCTGTT CTCTTTAAAC GAAGTTGTAG 60
 20 AGTTTCGTTG TCAGCCGGGC TTGTTATGA 90

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:24:

- 25 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 90 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 30 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

35 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:24:

CGGACCTTTC ATAACAAAGC CCGGCTGACA ACGAACTCT ACAACTTCGT TTAAAGAGAA 60
 40 CAGAGAACGG TTGTCAGATA CCAGGATACC 90

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:25:

- 45 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 72 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 50 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

55

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:25:

5 AAGGTCCGCG CCGTGTGAAG TGCCAGGCCT TGAACAAATG GGAGCCGGAA CTCCCGAGCT 60
GCTCATAATA AA 72

10 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:26:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

15 (A) LENGTH: 68 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

20 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:26:

25 AGCTTTTATT ATGAGCAGCT CGGGAGTCC GGCTCCCAATT TGTTCAAGGC CTGGCACTTC 60
ACACGGCG 68

30 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:27:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

35 (A) LENGTH: 197 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

40 (v) FRAGMENT TYPE: N-terminal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:27:

45 Met Gln Cys Asn Ala Pro Glu Trp Leu Pro Phe Ala Arg Pro Thr Asn
1 5 10 15
50 Leu Thr Asp Glu Phe Glu Phe Pro Ile Gly Thr Tyr Leu Asn Tyr Glu
20 25 30
55

5 Cys Arg Pro Gly Tyr Ser Gly Arg Pro Phe Ser Ile Ile Cys Leu Lys
 35 40 45
 Asn Ser Val Trp Thr Gly Ala Lys Asp Arg Cys Arg Arg Lys Ser Cys
 50 55 60
 10 Arg Asn Pro Pro Asp Pro Val Asn Gly Met Val His Val Ile Lys Gly
 65 70 75 80
 Ile Gln Phe Gly Ser Gln Ile Lys Tyr Ser Cys Thr Lys Gly Tyr Arg
 15 85 90 95
 Leu Ile Gly Ser Ser Ser Ala Thr Cys Ile Ile Ser Gly Asp Thr Val
 100 105 110
 20 Ile Trp Asp Asn Glu Thr Pro Ile Cys Asp Arg Ile Pro Cys Gly Leu
 115 120 125
 Pro Pro Thr Ile Thr Asn Gly Asp Phe Ile Ser Thr Asn Arg Glu Asn
 25 130 135 140
 Phe His Tyr Gly Ser Val Val Thr Tyr Arg Cys Asn Pro Gly Ser Gly
 30 145 150 155 160
 Gly Arg Lys Val Phe Glu Leu Val Gly Glu Pro Ser Ile Tyr Cys Thr
 165 170 175
 35 Ser Asn Asp Asp Gln Val Gly Ile Trp Ser Gly Pro Ala Pro Gln Cys
 180 185 190
 40 Ile Ile Pro Asn Lys
 195

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:28:

- 45 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 76 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 50
 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

55

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:28:

Met Arg Ile Pro Cys Gly Leu Pro Pro Thr Ile Thr Asn Gly Asp Phe
 1 5 10 15
 Ile Ser Thr Asn Arg Glu Asn Phe His Tyr Gly Ser Val Val Thr Tyr
 20 25 30
 Arg Cys Asn Pro Gly Ser Gly Gly Arg Lys Val Phe Glu Leu Val Gly
 35 40 45
 Glu Pro Ser Ile Tyr Cys Thr Ser Asn Asp Asp Gln Val Gly Ile Trp
 50 55 60
 Ser Gly Pro Ala Pro Gln Cys Ile Ile Pro Asn Lys
 65 70 75

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:29:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 254 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: N-terminal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:29:

Met Gln Cys Asn Ala Pro Glu Trp Leu Pro Phe Ala Arg Pro Thr Asn
 1 5 10 15
 Leu Thr Asp Glu Phe Glu Phe Pro Ile Gly Thr Tyr Leu Asn Tyr Glu
 20 25 30
 Cys Arg Pro Gly Tyr Ser Gly Arg Pro Phe Ser Ile Ile Cys Leu Lys
 35 40 45
 Asn Ser Val Trp Thr Gly Ala Lys Asp Arg Cys Arg Arg Lys Ser Cys

EP 0 649 468 B1

	50		55		60	
5	Arg Asn Pro Pro Asp Pro Val Asn Gly Met Val His Val Ile Lys Gly					
	65		70		75	80
	Ile Gln Phe Gly Ser Gln Ile Lys Tyr Ser Cys Thr Lys Gly Tyr Arg					
10		85		90		95
	Leu Ile Gly Ser Ser Ser Ala Thr Cys Ile Ile Ser Gly Asp Thr Val					
		100		105		110
15	Ile Trp Asp Asn Glu Thr Pro Ile Cys Asp Arg Ile Pro Cys Gly Leu					
		115		120		125
	Pro Pro Thr Ile Thr Asn Gly Asp Phe Ile Ser Thr Asn Arg Glu Asn					
20		130		135		140
	Phe His Tyr Gly Ser Val Val Thr Tyr Arg Cys Asn Pro Gly Ser Gly					
25		145		150		155
						160
	Gly Arg Lys Val Phe Glu Leu Val Gly Glu Pro Ser Ile Tyr Cys Thr					
		165		170		175
30	Ser Asn Asp Asp Gln Val Gly Ile Trp Ser Gly Pro Ala Pro Gln Cys					
		180		185		190
	Ile Ile Pro Asn Lys Cys Thr Pro Pro Asn Val Glu Asn Gly Ile Leu					
35		195		200		205
	Val Ser Asp Asn Arg Ser Leu Phe Ser Leu Asn Glu Val Val Glu Phe					
		210		215		220
40	Arg Cys Gln Pro Gly Phe Val Met Lys Gly Pro Arg Arg Val Lys Cys					
		225		230		235
						240
45	Gln Ala Leu Asn Lys Trp Glu Pro Glu Leu Pro Ser Cys Ser					
		245		250		

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:30:

(1) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 254 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

5

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: N-terminal

10

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:30:

15

Met Gln Cys Asn Ala Pro Glu Trp Leu Pro Phe Ala Arg Pro Thr Asn
 1 5 10 15

20

Leu Thr Asp Glu Phe Glu Phe Pro Ile Gly Thr Tyr Leu Asn Tyr Glu
 20 25 30

Cys Arg Pro Gly Tyr Ser Gly Arg Pro Phe Ser Ile Ile Cys Leu Lys
 35 40 45

25

Asn Ser Val Trp Thr Gly Ala Lys Asp Arg Cys Arg Arg Lys Ser Cys
 50 55 60

30

Arg Asn Pro Pro Asp Pro Val Asn Gly Met Val His Val Ile Lys Gly
 65 70 75 80

Ile Gln Phe Gly Ser Gln Ile Lys Tyr Ser Cys Thr Lys Gly Tyr Arg
 85 90 95

35

Leu Ile Gly Ser Ser Ser Ala Thr Cys Ile Ile Ser Gly Asp Thr Val
 100 105 110

40

Ile Trp Asp Asn Glu Thr Pro Ile Cys Asp Arg Ile Pro Cys Gly Leu
 115 120 125

45

Pro Pro Thr Ile Thr Asn Gly Asp Phe Ile Ser Thr Asn Arg Glu Asn
 130 135 140

Phe His Tyr Gly Ser Val Val Thr Tyr Arg Cys Asn Pro Gly Ser Gly
 145 150 155 160

50

Gly Arg Lys Val Phe Glu Leu Val Gly Glu Pro Ser Ile Tyr Cys Thr
 165 170 175

55

Ser Asn Asp Asp Gln Val Gly Ile Trp Ser Gly Pro Ala Pro Gln Cys
 180 185 190

Ile Ile Pro Asn Lys Cys Thr Pro Pro Asn Val Glu Asn Gly Ile Leu
 195 200 205

Val Ser Asp Asn Arg Ser Leu Phe Ser Leu Asn Glu Val Val Glu Phe
 210 215 220

Arg Cys Gln Pro Gly Phe Val Met Lys Gly Pro His Arg Val Lys Cys
 225 230 235 240

Gln Ala Leu Asn Lys Trp Glu Pro Glu Leu Pro Ser Cys Ser
 245 250

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:31:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 133 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:31:

Met Arg Ile Pro Cys Gly Leu Pro Pro Thr Ile Thr Asn Gly Asp Phe
 1 5 10 15

Ile Ser Thr Asn Arg Glu Asn Phe His Tyr Gly Ser Val Val Thr Tyr
 20 25 30

Arg Cys Asn Pro Gly Ser Gly Gly Arg Lys Val Phe Glu Leu Val Gly
 35 40 45

Glu Pro Ser Ile Tyr Cys Thr Ser Asn Asp Asp Gln Val Gly Ile Trp
 50 55 60

Ser Gly Pro Ala Pro Gln Cys Ile Ile Pro Asn Lys Cys Thr Pro Pro
 65 70 75 80

Asn Val Glu Asn Gly Ile Leu Val Ser Asp Asn Arg Ser Leu Phe Ser
85 90 95

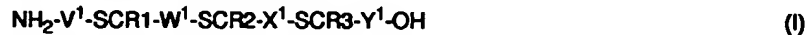
Leu Asn Glu Val Val Glu Phe Arg Cys Gln Pro Gly Phe Val Met Lys
100 105 110

Gly Pro Arg Arg Val Lys Cys Gln Ala Leu Asn Lys Trp Glu Pro Glu
115 120 125

Leu Pro Ser Cys Ser
130

Claims

1. A soluble polypeptide comprising, in sequence, one to four short consensus repeats (SCR) selected from SCR 1, 2, 3 and 4 of long homologous repeat A (LHR-A) as the only structurally and functionally intact SCR domains of CR1 and including at least SCR3, wherein SCR 1, 2, 3 and 4 consist respectively, of residues 2-58, 63-120, 125-191 and 197-252 of mature CR1.
2. A polypeptide according to claim 1 which comprises, in sequence, SCR 1, 2 and 3 of LHR-A as the only structurally and functionally intact SCR domains of CR1.
3. A polypeptide according to claim 2 of formula (I):



in which SCR1 represents residues 2-58 of mature CR1, SCR2 represents residues 63-120 of mature CR1, SCR3 represents residues 125-191 of mature CR1, and V¹, W¹, X¹ and Y¹ represent bonds or short linking sequences of amino acids, preferably 1 to 5 residues in length and which are preferably derived from native interdomain sequences in CR1.

4. A polypeptide according to claim 3 in which W¹, X¹ and Y¹ represent residues 59-62, 121-124 and 192-196, respectively, of mature CR1 and V¹ represents residue 1 of mature CR1 optionally linked via its N-terminus to methionine.
5. A polypeptide according to claim 1 which comprises, in sequence, SCR 1, 2, 3 and 4 of LHR-A as the only structurally and functionally intact SCR domains of CR1.
6. A polypeptide according to claim 5 of formula (II):



in which SCR1, SCR2 and SCR3 are as defined in claim 3, SCR4 represents residues 197-252 of mature CR1 and V², W², X², Y² and Z² represents bonds or short linking sequences of amino acids, preferably 1 to 5 residues in length and which are preferably derived from native interdomain sequences in CR1.

7. A polypeptide according to claim 6 in which W², X², Y² and Z² represent residues 59-62, 121-124, 192-196, and residues 253 respectively, of mature CR1 and V² represents residue 1 of mature CR1 optionally linked via its N-terminus to methionine.

8. A polypeptide according to claim 7 in which arginine 235 is replaced by histidine.

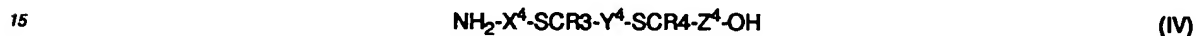
9. A polypeptide according to claim 1 of formula (III):



in which SCR3 is as defined in claim 3 and X^3 and Y^3 represent bonds or short linking sequences of amino acids, preferably 1 to 5 residues in length and which are preferably derived from native interdomain sequences in CR1.

10. A polypeptide according to claim 9 in which X^3 represents amino acids 122-124 of mature CR1 optionally linked to methionine at its N-terminus and Y^3 represents amino acids 192-196 of mature CR1.

11. A polypeptide according to claim 1 of formula (IV):



in which SCR3 and SCR4 are as defined in claim 6 and X^4 , Y^4 and Z^4 represent bonds or short linking sequences of amino acids, preferably 1 to 5 residues in length and which are preferably derived from native interdomain sequences in CR1.

12. A polypeptide according to claim 11 in which X^4 represents amino acids 122-124 of mature CR1 optionally linked to methionine at its N-terminus and Y^4 and Z^4 represent amino acids 192-196 and 253 respectively of mature CR1.

13. A polypeptide according to claim 1 having the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30 or SEQ ID NO:31.

14. A DNA molecule encoding a soluble polypeptide according to claim 1.

15. A DNA polymer according to claim 14 having the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID No: 32 or SEQ ID No. 33, as follows:

SEQ ID NO: 32

1 TATGCGAATT CCGTGTGGTC TGCCGCCGAC CATCACCAAC GGTGATTTC
 51 TCTCTACCAA TCGCGAGAAT TTCACTATG GTTCTGTGGT GACCTACCGC
 101 TGCAATCCGG GTAGCGGTGG TCGTAAGGTG TTTGAGCTCG TGGGTGAGCC
 151 GTCCATCTAC TGCCTAGTA ATGACGATCA AGTGGGCATC TGGAGCGGCC
 201 CGGCACCGCA GTGCATCATC CCGAACAAAT AATATA

SEQ ID NO: 33

1 TATGCACTGC AACGCTCCGG AATGGCTGCC GTTCGGCGGC CCGACCAACC
 51 TGACTGATGA ATTTGAGTTC CCGATCGGTA CCTACCTGAA CTACGAATGC
 101 CGCCCGGGTT ATAGCGGCCG CCCGTTTTCT ATCATCTGCC TGAAAACTC
 151 TGTCTGGACT GGTGCTAAGG ACCGTTGCCG ACGTAAATCT TGTGTAATC
 201 CGCCAGATCC GGTAAACGGC ATGGTGCATG TGATCAAAGG CATCCAGTTC
 251 GGTTCCTCAA TTAAATATTC TTGTAATAA GGTTACCGTCT GATTGGTTC
 301 CTCCAGCGCT ACATGCATCA TCTCTGGTGA TACTGTCATT TGGGATAATG
 351 AAACACCGAT TTGTGACCGA ATTCCGTGTG GTCTGCCGCC GACCATCACC
 401 AACGGTGATT TCATCTCTAC CAATCGCGAG AATTTTCACT ATGGTTCTGT
 451 GGTGACCTAC CGCTGCAATC CGGTTAGCGG TGGTCGTAAG GTGTTTGAGC
 501 TCGTGGGTGA GCCGTCCATC TACTGCACTA GTAAATGACGA TCAAGTGGGC
 551 ATCTGGAGCG GCGCGGCACC GCAGTGCATC ATCCCGAACA AATAATAA

16. A replicable expression vector capable, in a host cell, of expressing the DNA polymer of claim 14 or 15.
17. A host cell transformed with the replicable expression vector of claim 16.
18. A process for preparing a CR1 polypeptide according to claim 1 which process comprises expressing DNA encoding said polypeptide in a recombinant host cell and recovering the product.
19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

20. The use of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder associated with inflammation or inappropriate complement activation.

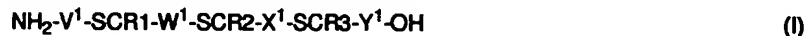
21. A polypeptide according to claim 1 for use as an active therapeutic substance.

Patentansprüche

1. Lösliches Polypeptid, umfassend der Reihe nach ein bis vier kurze Konsensus-Wiederholungen (SCR), ausgewählt aus SCR 1, 2, 3 und 4 einer langen homologen Wiederholung A (LHR-A), als die einzigen strukturell und funktionell intakten SCR-Domänen von CR1, und wenigstens SCR3 beinhaltend, wobei SCR 1, 2, 3 und 4 jeweils aus den Resten 2-58, 63-120, 125-191 und 197-252 von reifem CR1 besteht.

2. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1, umfassend der Reihe nach SCR 1, 2 und 3 von LHR-A als die einzigen strukturell und funktionell intakten SCR-Domänen von CR1.

3. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 2 der Formel (I):



wobei SCR1 die Reste 2-58 von reifem CR1 repräsentiert, SCR2 die Reste 63-120 von reifem CR1 repräsentiert, SCR3 die Reste 125-191 von reifem CR1 repräsentiert und V^1 , W^1 , X^1 und Y^1 Bindungen oder kurze Verknüpfungsgesequenzen von Aminosäuren repräsentieren, vorzugsweise mit einer Länge von 1 bis 5 Resten und vorzugsweise von nativen Zwischendomänen-Sequenzen in CR1 abstammend.

4. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 3, bei dem W^1 , X^1 und Y^1 jeweils die Reste 59-62, 121-124 und 192-196 von reifem CR1 repräsentieren und V^1 Rest 1 von reifem CR1 repräsentiert, bei Bedarf über seinen N-Terminus mit Methionin verknüpft.

5. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1, umfassend der Reihe nach SCR 1, 2, 3 und 4 von LHR-A als die einzigen strukturell und funktionell intakten SCR-Domänen von CR1.

6. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 5 der Formel (II):



wobei SCR1, SCR2 und SCR3 der Definition in Anspruch 3 entsprechen, SCR4 die Reste 197-252 von reifem CR1 repräsentiert und V^2 , W^2 , X^2 , Y^2 und Z^2 Bindungen oder kurze Verknüpfungssequenzen von Aminosäuren repräsentieren, vorzugsweise mit einer Länge von 1 bis 5 Resten und vorzugsweise von nativen Zwischendomänen-Sequenzen in CR1 abstammend.

7. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 6, bei dem W^2 , X^2 , Y^2 und Z^2 jeweils die Reste 59-62, 121-124, 192-196 und Rest 253 von reifem CR1 repräsentieren und V^2 Rest 1 von reifem CR1 repräsentiert, bei Bedarf über seinen N-Terminus mit Methionin verknüpft.

8. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 7, bei dem Arginin 235 durch Histidin ersetzt ist.

9. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1 der Formel (III):



wobei SCR3 der Definition in Anspruch 3 entspricht und X^3 und Y^3 Bindungen oder kurze Verknüpfungssequenzen von Aminosäuren repräsentieren, vorzugsweise mit einer Länge von 1 bis 5 Resten und vorzugsweise von nativen Zwischendomänen-Sequenzen in CR1 abstammend.

10. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 9, bei dem X^3 die Aminosäuren 122-124 von reifem CR1 repräsentiert, bei Bedarf mit Methionin an seinem N-Terminus verknüpft, und Y^3 die Aminosäuren 192-196 von reifem CR1 repräsentiert.

11. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1 der Formel (IV):



(IV)

wobei SCR3 und SCR4 der Definition in Anspruch 6 entsprechen und X^4 , Y^4 und Z^4 Bindungen oder kurze Verknüpfungssequenzen von Aminosäuren repräsentieren, vorzugsweise mit einer Länge von 1 bis 5 Resten und vorzugsweise von nativen Zwischendomänen-Sequenzen in CR1 abstammend.

12. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 11, bei dem X^4 die Aminosäuren 122-124 von reifem CR1 repräsentiert, bei Bedarf mit Methionin an seinem N-Terminus verknüpft, und Y^4 und Z^4 jeweils die Aminosäuren 192-196 und 253 von reifem CR1 repräsentieren.
13. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1 mit der in SEQ ID Nr. 27, SEQ ID Nr. 28, SEQ ID Nr. 29, SEQ ID Nr. 30 oder SEQ ID Nr. 31 angegebenen Aminosäuresequenz.
14. DNA-Molekül, das ein lösliches Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1 kodiert.
15. DNA-Polymer nach Anspruch 14 mit der in der folgenden SEQ ID Nr. 32 oder SEQ ID Nr. 33 angegebenen Nucleotidsequenz:

SEQ ID Nr. 32

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1  TATGCGAATT CCGTGTGGTC TGCCGCCGAC CATCACCAAC GGTGATTTC
51 TCTCTACCAA TCGCGAGAAT TTCACTATG GTTCTGTGGT GACCTACCGC
101 TGCAATCCGG GTAGCGGTGG TCGTAAGGTG TTTGAGCTCG TGGGTGAGCC
151 GTCCATCTAC TGCACTAGTA ATGACGATCA AGTGGGCATC TGGAGCGGCC
201 CGGCACCGCA GTGCATCATC CCGAACAAAT AATAAA

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SEQ ID Nr. 33

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1  TATGCAGTGC AACGCTCCGG AATGGCTGCC GTTCGCGCGC CCGACCAACC
51 TGACTGATGA ATTTGAGTTC CCGATCGGTA CCTACCTGAA CTACGAATGC
101 CGCCCGGGTT ATAGCGGCCG CCCGTTTTCT ATCATCTGCC TGAAAACTC
151 TGTCTGGACT GGTGCTAAGG ACCGTTGCCG ACGTAAATCT TGTCGTAATC
201 CGCCAGATCC GGTTAACGGC ATGGTGATG TGATCAAAGG CATCCAGTTC
251 GGTCCCAAA TTAAATATTC TTGTACTAAA GGTTACCGTCT GATTGGTTC
301 CTCCAGCGCT ACATGCATCA TCTCTGGTGA TACTGTCATT TGGGATAATG
351 AAACACCGAT TTGTGACCGA ATTCGCTGTG GTCTGCCGCC GACCATCACC
401 AACGGTGATT TCATCTCTAC CAATCGCGAG AATTTTCACT ATGGTTCTGT
451 GGTGACCTAC CGCTGCAATC CGGGTAGCGG TGGTCGTAAG GTGTTTGAGC
501 TCGTGGGTGA GCCGTCCATC TACTGCACTA GTAATGACGA TCAAGTGGGC
551 ATCTGGAGCG GCCCGGCACC GCAGTGCATC ATCCCGAACA AATAATAAA

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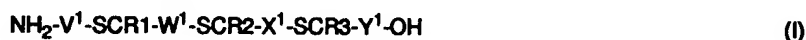
16. Replizierbarer Expressionsvektor, der in einer Wirtszelle das DNA-Polymer von Anspruch 14 oder 15 ausprägen kann.

17. Wirtszelle, transformiert mit dem replizierbaren Expressionsvektor von Anspruch 16.
18. Verfahren zum Präparieren eines CR1-Polypeptids nach Anspruch 1, umfassend das Ausprägen von DNA, die das genannte Polypeptid kodiert, in einer rekombinanten Wirtszelle, und Wiedergewinnen des Produktes.
19. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung, umfassend eine therapeutisch wirksame Menge eines Polypeptids nach Anspruch 1 und einen pharmazeutisch akzeptablen Träger oder Trägerstoff.
20. Verwendung eines Polypeptids nach Anspruch 1 in der Herstellung eines Medikamentes zur Behandlung einer Erkrankung oder Störung in Verbindung mit Inflammation oder unangemessener Komplementaktivierung.
21. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1 für den Gebrauch als aktive therapeutische Substanz.

Revendications

1. Polypeptide soluble comprenant, en séquence, une à quatre unités répétitives consensus courtes (SCR) sélectionnées à partir de SCR 1, 2, 3 et 4 de l'unité répétitive homologue longue A (LHR-A) en tant que les seuls domaines SCR structurellement et fonctionnellement intacts de CR1 et incluant au moins SCR3, dans lequel SCR 1, 2, 3 et 4 consistent respectivement en les résidus 2-58, 63-120, 125-191 et 197-252 de CR1 mature.
2. Polypeptide selon la revendication 1 qui comprend, en séquence, SCR 1, 2 et 3 de LHR-A en tant que les seuls domaines SCR structurellement et fonctionnellement intacts de CR1.

3. Polypeptide selon la revendication 2 de la formule (I):



dans laquelle SCR1 représente les résidus 2-58 de CR1 mature, SCR2 représente les résidus 63-120 de CR1 mature, SCR3 représente les résidus 125-191 de CR1 mature, et V^1 , W^1 , X^1 et Y^1 représentent des liaisons ou des séquences de liaison courtes d'acides aminés, de préférence de 1 à 5 résidus de long et qui sont de préférence dérivées de séquences natives d'interdomaine dans CR1.

4. Polypeptide selon la revendication 3 dans lequel W^1 , X^1 et Y^1 représentent les résidus 59-62, 121-124 et 192-196, respectivement, de CR1 mature et V^1 représente le résidu 1 de CR1 mature facultativement lié à la méthionine par son extrémité-N.
5. Polypeptide selon la revendication 1 qui comprend, en séquence, SCR 1, 2, 3 et 4 de LHR-A en tant que les seuls domaines SCR structurellement et fonctionnellement intacts de CR1.

6. Polypeptide selon la revendication 5 de la formule (II):



dans laquelle SCR1, SCR2 et SCR3 sont telles que définies dans la revendication 3, SCR4 représente les résidus 197-252 de CR1 mature et V^2 , W^2 , X^2 , Y^2 et Z^2 représentent des liaisons ou des séquences de liaison courtes d'acides aminés, de préférence de 1 à 5 résidus de long et qui sont de préférence dérivées de séquences natives d'interdomaine dans CR1.

7. Polypeptide selon la revendication 6 dans lequel W^2 , X^2 , Y^2 et Z^2 représentent les résidus 59-62, 121-124, 192-196 et le résidu 253 respectivement de CR1 mature et V^2 représente le résidu 1 de CR1 mature facultativement lié à la méthionine par son extrémité-N.

8. Polypeptide selon la revendication 7 dans lequel l'arginine 235 est remplacée par de l'histidine.

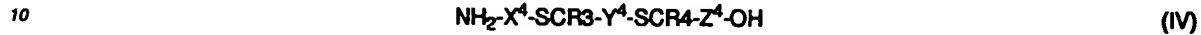
9. Polypeptide selon la revendication 1 de la formule (III):



dans laquelle SCR3 est telle que définie dans la revendication 3 et X³ et Y³ représentent des liaisons ou des séquences de liaison courtes d'acides aminés, de préférence de 1 à 5 résidus de long et qui sont de préférence dérivées de séquences natives d'interdomaine dans CR1.

- 5 10. Polypeptide selon la revendication 9 dans lequel X³ représente les acides aminés 122-124 de CR1 mature facultativement lié à la méthionine à son extrémité-N et Y⁴ représente les acides aminés 192-196 de CR1 mature.

11. Polypeptide selon la revendication 1 de la formule (IV):



dans laquelle SCR3 et SCR4 sont telles que définies dans la revendication 6 et X⁴, Y⁴ et Z⁴ représentent des liaisons ou des séquences de liaison courtes d'acides aminés, de préférence de 1 à 5 résidus de long et qui sont de préférence dérivées de séquences natives d'interdomaine dans CR1.

- 15 12. Polypeptide selon la revendication 11 dans lequel X⁴ représente les acides aminés 122-124 de CR1 mature facultativement lié à la méthionine par son extrémité-N et Y⁴ et Z⁴ représentent les acides aminés 192-196 et 253 respectivement de CR1 mature.

- 20 13. Polypeptide selon la revendication 1 ayant la séquence d'acides aminés donnée dans la SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30 ou la SEQ ID NO:31.

14. Molécule d'ADN codant un polypeptide soluble selon la revendication 1.

- 25 15. Polymère d'ADN selon la revendication 14 ayant la séquence de nucléotides donnée dans la SEQ ID NO:32 ou la SEQ ID NO:33, comme suit:

SEQ ID NO:32

30 1 TATGCGAATT CCGTGTGGTC TGCCGCCGAC CATCACCAAC GGTGATTTC
51 TCTCTACCAA TCGCGAGAAT TTCACTATG GTTCTGTGGT GACCTACCGC
101 TGCAATCCGG GTAGCGGTGG TCGTAAGGTG TTTGAGCTCG TGGGTGAGCC
35 151 GTCCATCTAC TGCACTAGTA ATGACGATCA AGTGGGCATC TGGAGCGGCC
201 CGGCACCGCA GTGCATCATC CCGAACAAAT AATAAA

40

45

50

55

SEQ ID NO:33

1 TATGCAGTGC AACGCTCCGG AATGGCTGCC GTTCGCGCGC CCGACCAACC
5 51 TGACTGATGA ATTTGAGTTC CCGATCGGTA CCTACCTGAA CTACGAATGC
101 CGCCCGGGTT ATAGCGGCCG CCCGTTTTCT ATCATCTGCC TGAAAACTC
15 151 TGTCTGGACT GGTGCTAAGG ACCGTTGCCG ACGTAAATCT TGTCGTAATC
201 CGCCAGATCC GGTTAACGGC ATGGTGATG TGATCAAAGG CATCCAGTTC
251 GGTTCCCAA TTAATATTC TTGTACTAAA GGTTACCGTCT GATTGGTTC
301 CTCCAGCGCT ACATGCATCA TCTCTGGTGA TACTGTCATT TGGGATAATG
15 351 AAACACCGAT TTGTGACCGA ATTCCGTGTG GTCTGCCGCC GACCATCACC
401 AACGGTGATT TCATCTCTAC CAATCGCGAG AATTTTCACT ATGGTTCTGT
20 451 GGTGACCTAC CGCTGCAATC CGGGTAGCGG TGGTCGTAAG GTGTTTGAGC
501 TCGTGGGTGA GCCGTCCATC TACTGCACTA GTAATGACGA TCAAGTGGGC
551 ATCTGGAGCG GCCCGGCACC GCAGTGCATC ATCCCGAACA AATAATAAA

16. Vecteur d'expression répliquable capable, dans une cellule hôte, d'exprimer le polymère d'ADN de la revendication 14 ou 15.

17. Cellule hôte transformée avec le vecteur d'expression répliquable de la revendication 16.

18. Procédé pour préparer un polypeptide CR1 selon la revendication 1 lequel procédé comprend exprimer l'ADN codant ledit polypeptide dans une cellule hôte recombinée et récupérer le produit.

19. Composition pharmaceutique comprenant une quantité thérapeutiquement efficace d'un polypeptide selon la revendication 1 et un vecteur ou un excipient pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

20. Emploi d'un polypeptide de la revendication 1 dans la fabrication d'un médicament pour le traitement d'une maladie ou d'un trouble associé à une inflammation ou à une activation inappropriée du complément.

21. Polypeptide selon la revendication 1 à utiliser en tant que substance thérapeutique active.

Figure 1

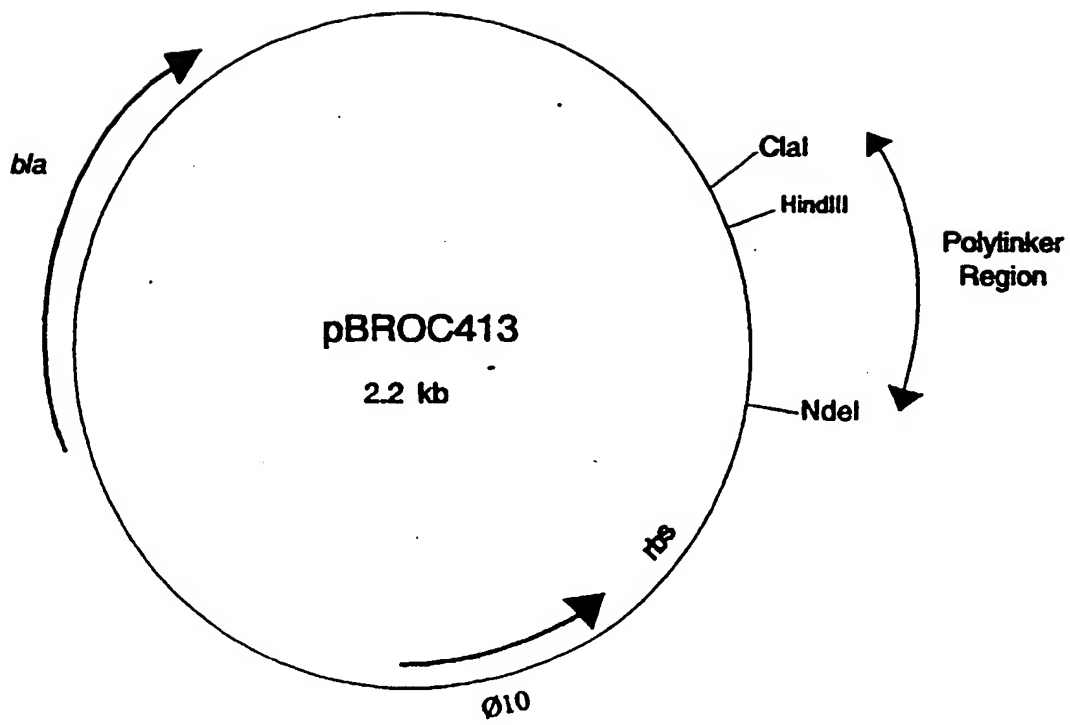


Figure 2

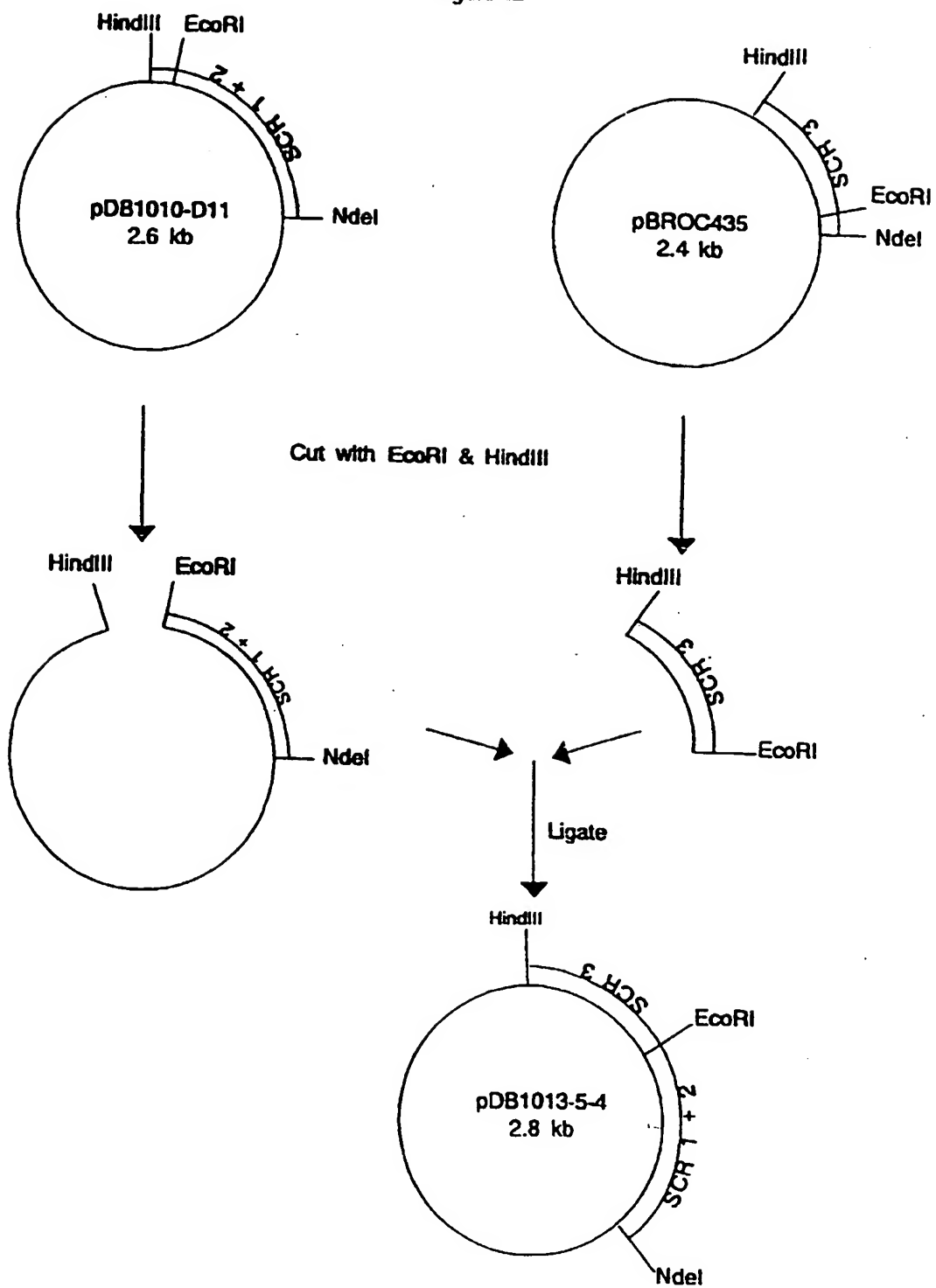


Figure 3

